

Mr Wilson's vision of British road to recovery

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Best yet to come in Middle East trade

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Bishop's attack on bad environment concession to Stockwood view

Dr Coggan said last night: "Unemployment, and especially the unemployment of the school-leaver, is one of our greatest enemies. Each successive government addresses itself to the problems and finds the solution elusive."

No import controls unless IMF consents

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, made it clear in the Commons yesterday that the condition attached to the new international borrowing of £375m from the International Monetary Fund for which he has applied will be that no import controls shall be imposed without the fund's consent.

That applies to the section of the loan sought under the oil facility arrangements (£575m). In the Chancellor's words, "I shall be required to refrain from introducing any new, or intensifying any existing, restrictions on trade or payments without prior consultation with the fund."

Mr Healey said in answer to Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, that he would be required to state United Kingdom policies on oil conservation and on the new production of energy. He must also refrain from beggar-my-neighbour policies. In addition the fund must be satisfied that United Kingdom policies were likely to achieve medium-term recovery of the balance of payments.

It was obvious that although leading tribunes were in the House there was not a single comment on the loan from that quarter. Mr Healey was not deluded by that unnatural silence into thinking that the storm had blown over, or that the cries for import controls during recent weeks from his left-wing colleagues would not be heard again.

At one point the Chancellor remarked that he had learnt to give as much attention to his friends' silences as to their noises.

The only word of support from the Labour back benches for the Government's application came from Mr. Horam (Gateshead, West) who suggested that most people would consider the loan a prudent alternative to a further depression of economic activity.

Mr Healey's statement made clear indeed that indirect the Government's huge borrowing requirement will have to be reduced or at least curbed before long.

From the Tory front bench, Sir Geoffrey Howe asked whether the Chancellor had been required to give an estimate of his borrowing needs for the current year. If the present "faze" progress was to continue, when did Mr Healey think that there would be nothing left to borrow? He pointed out that the sum asked for would meet only a six months' deficit on current trends.

The Chancellor told the House that if the Government wished to draw further credit tranches he would be required to submit a letter of intent covering detailed quarterly targets for performance. A letter of that kind was not required for the first tranche, and he insisted that that drawing would not result in a monitoring of the Government's performance by the IMF.

He was satisfied that the expectations and intentions of the Government over the public-sector borrowing requirement and on domestic credit expectations were consistent with medium-term balance of payments recovery.

The Chancellor added that drawings were not expected until early next year, but the decision had to be taken at this time so that the IMF could know now what United Kingdom application would be made, so as to plan disposition of the remaining resources of the oil facility.

Mr Healey said there had been a substantial recovery in our balance of payments, but a deficit must be expected to continue for some time. The oil facility he had helped to establish was designed as a recycling mechanism to assist countries with substantial deficits resulting wholly or largely because of the increased costs of oil imports.

The Chancellor pointed out that the performance of British industry during the past 12 months had been remarkably good and but for the increase in oil prices there would have been a substantial balance of trade surplus.

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Portuguese pull out of war-torn, leaderless Angola

Brief independence ceremony in Luanda marks end of Lisbon's 500-year-old empire

From Nicholas Ashford
Luanda, Nov 10

Angola's independence was officially proclaimed today by Admiral Leonel Cardoso, the Portuguese High Commissioner, in one of the most unusual acts of decolonisation ever witnessed in Africa.

In a brief ceremony in Luanda, at which no Angolans were present, Admiral Cardoso announced that in the name of the Portuguese President he was transferring sovereignty to the "Angolan people". Thus at midnight tonight Angola becomes an independent sovereign state without an interim government—although a few socialist states are expected to grant recognition to the left-wing Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), which is in control of the capital.

Today's ceremony took place under the glittering chandeliers of the pink-stuccoed presidential palace overlooking Luanda's harbour. Behind the high commissioner hung a large tapestry map showing the full extent of Portugal's once mighty empire five centuries to create but one month's final stages of dismantling have taken only 18 months.

The High Commissioner's declaration was in accordance with Portugal's policy not to hand over to any one of the three liberation movements which are fighting for control of the country. Admiral Cardoso said that for Portugal to have adopted any other position would have been considered only as interference in the right of the Angolan people to decide their own future. The Angolan people's task was to decide how they are going to exercise their own sovereignty, he added.

Tonight the MPLA was due to hold a big rally in a Luanda football stadium at which its leader, Dr Agostinho Neto, was expected to declare the movement as the sole legitimate government of Angola. However, the rival Angolan National Liberation Front (FNLA) had plans to make a similar declaration from its capital of Carmona, about 200 miles to the north-east.

The High Commissioner expressed regret that fighting was still going on among the three movements—the third is the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita)—despite various Portuguese and international attempts to reconcile them. He hoped the fratricidal conflict would soon end and that Angola would be united once again.

But he repudiated any accusations that Portugal was to blame for the crisis. He was leaving "with my head held high and without any sense of guilt".

Admiral Cardoso was strongly critical of the countries supplying arms to the three movements. Without naming them, he said that they were responsible for the thousands of deaths in Angola, though they themselves were well out of reach of the weapons they were supplying.

Tonight only one Portuguese official remained in the country—Dr Carlos Teixeira da Mota, whose thankless job it is to open a new Portuguese embassy in Luanda. However, the embassy will not function until Portugal recognizes a new Angolan government.

While the High Commissioner was preparing to set sail, the war was still going on and heavy gunfire could be heard coming from the front line about 20 miles north of the city. In this area the MPLA has been successfully holding off an attempt by the FNLA to advance on Luanda and seize it before independence.

Fighting continues on at least three fronts. According to informed sources there have been heavy exchanges of fire in Cabinda, the oil-rich enclave about 300 miles north of Luanda.

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Big rise in fuel and raw material costs

The cost of raw materials and fuels to British industry increased in October by 3.8 per cent, the largest rise for 21 months, according to official figures published yesterday. Over the past three months the costs have risen at an annual rate of about 37 per cent, and this could have the effect of halting the recent downward trend in wholesale and retail price increases.

Mr William Hardcastle dies at 57 after a stroke

One of the best known voices in Britain was silenced yesterday when Mr William Hardcastle, presenter of the BBC's *The World at One* since its inception 10 years ago, died after a stroke. He was 57. Tributes were paid to him by many of the public men who had been interviewed, reported, and interpreted by him over the past decade, often in a searching, always fairly, and seldom uninformative. They included the Prime Minister, Mr Edward Heath, and Mr Jeremy Thorpe.

British Rail wins reprieve from industrial action

British Rail last night won a short-term reprieve from industrial action over reduced rail services after agreeing with leaders of the three railway unions guidelines on economic conditions. The formula, which should prevent compulsory redundancies for the next seven months, was agreed after a series of talks between the unions and the railway.

Morocco and Spain in sight of agreement on Sahara

Morocco and Spain are in sight of an agreement over the future of the Spanish Sahara, Mr Ahmed Benhima, the Moroccan Information Minister, said yesterday. He told a press conference in Agadir that a Moroccan delegation would be going to Madrid for talks soon. But he gave a warning that if these negotiations failed the 350,000 Moroccan civilians whose march into the territory was cancelled by King Hassan would return.

Ulster troops call rejected

Demands that a new Parliament at Stormont should be given control of British troops in Ulster and that it should continue to draw the £400m a year now granted to the province were rejected in the Commons yesterday by Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Mr Airey Neave, the Conservatives' spokesman on Ulster, committed his party to Mr Rees's position.

Tory pledge on grants

The Conservatives would free parents from having to contribute to their children's grants at universities and colleges, Mr Norman St John-Stevas, Opposition spokesman on education, said yesterday. He also called for a new and flexible method to replace the quinquennial system of financing universities, which he said had been made inoperative by inflation. It should be considered by a government "think tank".

'Bribes accepted to pass cars'

Unscrupulous garage owners and mechanics have been accepting bribes from motorists to pass cars through the Automobile Association's magazine, Drive, says: Criticizing the Department of the Environment for delaying the introduction of a stiffer test until 1979, it says the magazine's system and its management are making only a limited contribution to road safety.

State takeover faces Tokyo

Tokyo faces a money crisis that could lead to the city's administration being taken over by the Japanese Government. The kind of collapse that threatens New York is impossible because of a legal safeguard requiring state intervention, but with a large budget deficit and insufficient tax revenue, the situation is serious.

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Letters: On pay levels in the Civil Service, from Mr P. M. Oppenheimer and Mr Campbell Christie; the rebuilding of the House of Commons, from Mr G. Tremlett; on mental offenders, from Mr S. R. Speller. Leading articles: London rule and Glasgow rule; Spanish Sahara. Features, pages 12 and 14: Nicholas Ashford on the struggle for power inside independent Angola; Martin Bell on the state of human rights in Europe; Fashion by Prudence Glynn. Paul Overy on the Burne-Jones exhibition (Hayward Gallery); Melinda Camber Porter on new films in Paris; music notices by Stephen Walsh, Thomas Walker and Richard Evidon. Sport, pages 10 and 11: Racing: Leading French filly to run in last big race of English flat season: Football: Gerry Harrison discusses George Best's return to English football; Motor racing: Future of Hesketh team still in doubt. Obituary, page 15: Mr William Hardcastle; Mr Robert Williams. Business News, pages 16-21: Stock markets: Profit taking clipped back a good start by equities and the FT index closed 1.9 down to 367.4. Financial Editor: Lucas finds growth in the recession: Short-term factors for interest rates: Exports at a crossroads. Business feature: Margaret Allen looks at the performance of world business as shown in the pages of the 1975-76 edition of *The Times Yearbook*. Business Diary: New man at the top at Ferranti.

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Turning over old leaves—seasonal work in Gray's Inn, London, yesterday.

Spanish right stakes claim

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Nov 10
As General Franco's powers of recovery continued to astonish his doctors, a leader of the extreme right wing called on Prince Juan Carlos, the acting head of state, to "continue the regime".

In Saragossa, Señor Blas Pinar, a well-known leader of the extreme right and a member of the Cortes (Parliament), made a direct personal appointment of General Franco, told a crowd wearing blue shirts and giving the fascist salute that the civil war had not ended in Spain.

Court rules that girl be kept alive

From Peter Strafford
New York, Nov 10
A federal judge today refused to grant permission for the disconnection of the respirator which has kept Miss Karen Quinlan, aged 21, alive since she fell into a coma in April. The ruling was made by Judge Robert Muir, in Morristown, New Jersey, at the end of a case which has attracted attention throughout the United States and abroad. At issue was the question of how to treat a patient who could never recover normal health, but who, it was generally admitted, was still alive.

Miss Quinlan fell into a coma on April 14 during an outing with friends, probably as a result of mixing tranquilizers and strong drinks. Doctors have held out no hope that she could recover, and her adoptive parents asked the court for permission to have the respirator disconnected so that she could "die with dignity".

The application was opposed by local prosecutors, by lawyers for Miss Quinlan's doctors, and by a lawyer appointed to represent Miss Quinlan herself. The prosecutors argued that it would be a form of homicide under New Jersey state law. The doctors told the court that they would refuse to disconnect the respirator even if ordered to do so.

The Judge had studied the evidence on his own for two weeks. He said that Mr Joseph Quinlan, the adoptive father, was "very obviously anguished" over his decision to apply for the disconnection of the respirator. Because of that he would not allow Mr Quinlan to take part in the day-by-day decisions affecting the girl.

He appointed Mr Daniel Coburn, the lawyer representing Miss Quinlan's interests, as her guardian in all medical matters. "It is a medical decision whether or not Karen should be removed from the respirator," Judge Muir said.

HOME NEWS

Government rejects Convention demand for power over troops

By David Wood

Political Editor

With a wealth of meaning that fully registered on the House of Commons yesterday, Mr. Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, rejected demands in the report from the Northern Ireland Constitutional Convention that reached him over the weekend.

"I should make it clear," he said emphatically, "that the British Army is under the control of the Parliament, and the sovereignty of the Queen in the Parliament of the United Kingdom rests also at Westminster." Mr. Airey Neave, Opposition frontbench spokesman on Northern Ireland, immediately committed the Conservatives to that position.

Behind the scenes, most leading politicians knew that the two statements constituted the Commons reply to United Ulster Unionist Coalition demands for a new parliament at Stormont that would be granted control over British forces in the province and that would continue to draw subventions from Westminster now amounting to about £50m a year.

The report also stakes the claim for Northern Ireland's representation at Westminster to be increased from 12 to about 20 members of the Commons.

Labour ministers appear to have been shocked by the extreme line taken in the report, which apparently mentions Social Democratic and Labour Party and Alliance Party positions only to go on to represent U.U.C. views as those of the Convention.

On the issue of devolution, which will dominate the next parliamentary session, the report apparently argues for a system of secretaries of state for the regions (Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland), and then proposes that when parliaments or assemblies are

created the secretariats of state should cease to exist at Westminster. The document is regarded as the full expression of Mr. Ian Paisley's influence in the U.U.C.

But Mr. Gerard Fitt, SDLP member for Belfast, West, also made a point in the Commons that Mr. Rees bluntly rejected. He suggested that members of the Convention, which is now discussing subject to recall within six months, should continue to be able to serve those who elected them.

Mr. Rees answered that Northern Ireland was represented at Westminster by the 12 MPs (10 of them U.U.C.) returned from Northern Ireland at the last general election. But members of the Convention should continue to be available for consultation and their salaries and suitable allowances would be paid until May 1, next year.

The Convention could not be an advisory body to the United Kingdom Government, and no decision had been taken whether to recall it.

The Convention's report, along with its draft Bill, is to be published soon, and will be debated by the Commons early in the new session.

Mr. Rees said in his statement yesterday that it dealt with fundamental issues, including the form of government for Northern Ireland, its powers and functions; its legal authority; questions of constitutional rights and its relationship with Parliament at Westminster; financial assistance and taxation; and responsibility for law and order and the use of the Army.

The Government and the House would want to consider the questions very carefully, and he hoped that Northern Ireland people "will ponder upon them since they profoundly affect the future of Northern Ireland."

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Police finish examination of Herrema siege house

From Stewart Tendler

Monasterreiv, co. Kildare

Forensic scientists completed their work at 1410 St. Evin's Park, Monasterreiv, last night, having found no evidence that the kidnappers of Dr. Herrema, the Dutch industrialist, left their tiny front bedroom even once during the 18-day siege of the house.

When the police examined the room they found it surprisingly clean. The only furniture was a folding camp bed with a flowered mattress and a small carpet, under which Eddie Gallagher and Marian Coyle, the kidnappers, slept. There was also a blanket under which Dr. Herrema slept.

The first anyone outside the house knew of the existence of the siege was when the kidnappers threw a revolver out through the smashed window.

The house is expected to be back in the hands of the Hall family today.

Incident centre closes: Provisional republicans in London yesterday closed the incident centre in the Bogside, Craggan area which they had operated since the beginning of the present IRA-Army truce (The Press Association reports).

The centre was one of several set up as a contact

point with British security forces. A statement from the Provisional republican movement said the centre was closed because of increased army activity in the city, including the searching of many houses.

Mr. George Barlow, a reserve policeman who lost an arm and suffered severe leg and chest injuries in an explosion at Portlough on September 22, was married yesterday in Craigavon Area Hospital. His bride was Mrs. Janet Pritchard.

The Duke and Duchess of Leinster have formed an All-Ireland Distress Fund to aid victims of the Irish troubles.

The duke, who is the fund's patron, emphasized that the money raised would not be used solely for the benefit of Irish people. It was a non-political, non-sectarian charity, he said.

It included aid to people of many different nationalities who had suffered loss or injury in recent indiscriminate bomb attacks, some of whom were not covered by any form of official government compensation.

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Press freedom confrontation

Hopes of a compromise fading

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

As peers of all parties prepared last night for the crucial confrontation today in the House of Lords between the Government and a coalition of Conservative, Liberal and cross-benchers on the "press freedom amendments" to the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill, it appeared that the hopes of the supporters of the amendments were likely to be disappointed.

Some Conservative peers had hoped that the Government would come forward with a compromise to secure a result of a breach of the proposed press charter would have some legal protection. Such protection was inserted into the Bill by amendments moved by Lord Halsbury of St. Marylebone and by Lord Goodham, but the Commons rejected them.

Last night Labour peers were expecting the Conservatives to drop their opposition at the last moment, and the Conservatives had heard "whispers" that the Government might be willing to find a compromise.

But ministers said that Mrs. Thatcher, the Conservative

Ministers say Mrs. Thatcher has made it harder to accept the Lords' amendments

leader, had made it much more difficult for the Government to accept either of the amendments by turning it into a straightforward political issue.

At a meeting in Norfolk on Friday Mrs. Thatcher said that if the legal safeguards for editors and journalists were not included in the Bill, Britain might lose its status as a free country, and she said that the Government would not accept the amendments.

The Government dismisses that as a wild exaggeration, and insists that to introduce legal sanctions into a trade union

Bill would be to repeat the error of the Conservatives made in their union legislation. Ministers point out that they have agreed to the appointment of a supervisory body that would be able to hear complaints of any persons who felt they had been victimized by trade union action, and that that would be a valuable safeguard.

Lord Halsbury's amendment would require compensation to be awarded by the supervisory body; Lord Goodham's amendment seeks to strengthen the press charter by making any rule or agreement that is contrary to it "contrary to public policy", thus giving a remedy in common law.

If the Conservative peers are driven into a corner they would be prepared to agree to the Government's acceptance of Lord Goodham's amendment.

If the Government gives no ground at all the Conservatives and others will vote again for the rejected amendments and the Government will be forced to announce that the Parliament Act will be invoked to ensure that in the next session the will of the Commons prevails.

'Mediator' called in to Prentice dispute

By Michael Hatfield

Political Staff

A final effort is to be made to achieve a reconciliation between Mr. Prentice, Minister for Overseas Development, and the Newham, North-east, constituency Labour Party, which does not want him as MP.

The move was initiated by the Labour Party's national organization subcommittee, which yesterday endorsed the report of an inquiry team rejecting Mr. Prentice's appeal to the party's national executive committee.

Yesterday's decision has still to be agreed by the national executive committee on November 26.

The outcome is that Mr. Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the Labour Party, has been charged to hold discussions with the various factions in Newham, North-east, which appear to him appropriate and make a report in January.

Mr. Prentice's first response to the recommendation was that the organization subcommittee had "failed to give the leadership they should". He was, however, fully prepared to cooperate with Mr. Hayward in the discussions. He was not prepared to compromise on his views and intended to stick by his principles.

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Extra stops to make up for train cuts

By Michael Bailey

Transport Correspondent

Cuts in services aimed at saving about £500,000 a year were announced by British Rail yesterday as part of the government-instigated economy drive.

Most of the services cancelled from January will be of lesser used trains, and will affect only relatively few passengers, the region said. Additional stops will be made by other trains to compensate.

The chief services affected are those between Paddington, Slough, Windsor, Reading and Oxford, with 11 trains a day cancelled.

The train: A renovated four-coach electric train, which could run on Southern Region until the end of this century, was put on show yesterday by British Rail (The Press Association reports).

If all 129 similar units, now

18 years old, were similarly

replaced, the cost would be about £16m. To replace them with new stock when they reach the end of their normal useful life of about 10 years, would cost about £54m at today's prices.

The interior of the four coaches has been gutted then rebuilt and refurbished, and the train has been mechanically and electrically renovated and fitted with new bogies.

The train, now fitted with Inter-City type seats and modern lighting and decor, will soon be running on main-line services in Kent for passenger trials. Southern Region emphasized yesterday that the train was an experimental prototype and was "on trial by the public and the railways."

Until trials were complete no decisions would be reached on giving similar treatment to the rest of the stock.

RAF man invents runway sweeper

It sucks up pins, screws, stones and other rubbish which might otherwise find their way into an aircraft's engine intake, causing foreign object damage, which is estimated to cost the RAF £12m a year in engine maintenance, Squadron Leader Narromore won the same prize seven years ago by identifying a form of fungus in aircraft fuel systems.

An officer serving with the RAF in Germany has invented a device that might save the taxpayer £12m a year (our Defence Correspondent writes). He is Squadron Leader Frank Narromore, aged 53, whose electro-magnetic runway sweeper won the R. L. G. Groves Air Safety Prize for 1975.

The road was wet and he had been driving at about 40 mph in the slow lane when the lorry suddenly shot off to the right. Mr. Varty, of Stephens Road, Brighton, was manager of Taylor & Coaches, a subsidiary of Airline Coaches of Brighton.

The inquiry continues today.

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MP wants legal aid for all at tribunals

By Diana Geddes

A ban on all legal representation before tribunals until legal aid is made available to applicants who cannot afford to be represented by a lawyer is proposed by Mr. Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent. He will put a parliamentary question to the Attorney General in the House of Commons tomorrow.

Mr. Ashley introduced a private member's Bill at the end of last month seeking to extend the provision of legal aid to cover legal representation at tribunals. Last week he received a letter from Lord Elwyn-Jones, the Lord Chancellor, saying that while he accepted the need for legal aid in certain cases, the Government was not yet able to provide it.

Mr. Ashley said yesterday that there should be parity for all categories of people who appeared before tribunals otherwise they were a travesty of justice. If the poor and weak, such as the old, the unemployed and the disabled, were to be denied expert professional representation by solicitors and counsel, so should the wealthy and powerful, such as government departments, landlords and employers.

Exhibitors warned to read the risk damage by fanatics

Gosling, an unwise to honour his masterpiece, the National Portrait Gallery, said: "All exhibits at risk from the fanatic; it is in the case of an art artist, to spread published today, in making loans allery's collection, is the vulnerability art, shown by its wide of dangers movement and light and humidity. he two Turners were back with a slight blurring and a very of paint loss - trif, and in no way the care lavished the organizers of on, but requiring, remedial treatment painting could be.

John Hale, chairman, trustees, hinted yesterday a big acquisition the way, nothing to reveal at

singer fined £1,100 tack at concert

prosecution, said the offences arose at a concert on June 2 at the New Theatre given by the Bay City Rollers. "Unfortunately some of the enthusiasm of the young fans boiled over into hysteria," he added. Press photographers were at the concert at the request of the show's promoters, in the orchestra pit below the stage. Some people in the audience jumped down about six feet into the orchestra pit and tried to get on to the stage or touch the performers. One girl became hysterical and had to be revived with smelling salts. "At that stage McKewna made a fairly violent and unprovoked attack on the two photographers," counsel said. It started with Mr McKewna still on the stage, swinging the microphone on its lead towards people in the pit. The first blow smashed Mr Hartley's camera, causing £92.18 damage.

Mr McKewna swung the microphone again and it hit Mr Hartley on the side of his head. Mr Hartley looked up and saw the microphone stand as it came down and hit him

or increased aid to industry

ts Reporter

al that a government should be set up additional financial the Film Development is made by the three of the Writers' Great Britain in a document to the set up by the Prime investigate the industry.

be pledged over a committee says, to large a profit as the production of

three adds that it is of nationalization television, about a situation operating with a commercial

is benefited from ive stimulus of the re conscious that may be difficult to the Government is at all, we commend tion to this as a vards the preservatish film industry."

olic church 'is not a national company'

where there are fewer than four.

Mr Robert Isaac, for Mr Allt, argued that the convent was part of the Roman Catholic Church controlled from Rome, and that the church could be likened to a worldwide company.

Sir Diarmuid Conroy, QC, chairman of the tribunal, found that the convent was not financially controlled from Rome, and had fewer than four employees. "Although we have been asked to look at this order as part of a multinational company, we find that Mr Allt's contract was with the mother house at Medstead. He was not entitled to claim for unfair dismissal."

Mr Allt complains that he was dismissed because it was discovered that he and his family were not Roman Catholics. He intends to appeal to the High Court.

Dismiss Labour officials, report says

An inquiry into the affairs of a ward Labour Party in the marginal constituency of Bradford, West, the seat of Mr Edward Lyons, QC, a Labour moderate, recommended that two of the ward officials should be removed from office.

The struggle between left-wing and moderate members of the Allerton ward party came to a head earlier this year when a candidate chosen for the Bradford District Council election was not on the official list of approved candidates. When told that the man was ineligible, the ward party withheld party funds from the official candidate.

Unemployed youths to be trained as rangers

From Our Correspondent
Manchester

The laying of plastic matting on a section of the Pennine Way, the long-distance footpath, which has become eroded in places, is to be one of the first tasks to be tackled by recruits under the latest scheme to provide training and useful temporary jobs for unemployed young people.

It is part of a programme being developed by Task Force North, a charitable trust, formed to help unemployed young people. The emphasis will be on providing work in national parks, beginning with the Peak District and Lake District.

The organisation is receiving £300,000 from the Manpower Services Commission as part of the Government's job-creation programme. It is hoped to provide temporary jobs for at least 500 young people as the scope of the programme is widened.

Recruits will be enrolled as trainee rangers for a three-week adventure training course with a syllabus including map reading, weather lore, basic survival and rescue exercises. They can then go on to qualify as conservation rangers. Trainees of 16 will get £21.75 a week, rising to £26.75 when they become conservation rangers. Those between 18 and 23 will be paid £32.40, rising to £37.40 for a 40-hour week.

The Civil Service Department is to undergo its first review of performance and structure New Prime Minister's unit is ruled out for the present

By Peter Hennessy

The structure and performance of the Civil Service Department are to be reviewed for the first time since it was established in November, 1968, after the publication of the Fulton report.

The management review will be conducted under the supervision of a steering committee of 10 senior officials, including civil servants from the Treasury and the Department of Industry, chaired by Sir Douglas Allen, Permanent Secretary to the Civil Service Department and Head of the Home Civil Service.

The steering committee includes one outside appointee, Sir Frederick Bishop, former director general of the National Trust. Completion of the report is expected by May or June, 1976.

Since the Civil Service Department was formed by joining the pay and manage-

ment divisions of the Treasury with the Civil Service Commission it has had responsibility for the size, personnel management and overall efficiency of the Civil Service.

There has been periodic speculation that it might assume part of the functions of the Cabinet Office, absorb the Central Policy Review Staff (the Government's think tank) and become the nucleus of a new Prime Minister's department.

Lord Armstrong of Sanderstead, Sir Douglas Allen's predecessor as Head of the Home Civil Service, was mentioned as a possible head of a department in 1972-73 before the retirement of Lord Trend as Secretary of the Cabinet and again just before the general election of February, 1974, when Lord Armstrong was known to be playing an active part in running Mr Heath's counter-inflation policy.

A report on a detailed management inquiry is expected by the middle of next year

It is thought unlikely in Whitehall that the present review, which is internal and not concerned with the department's role in relation to the other central departments of state, will reopen the question of a Prime Minister's department.

In a television interview with the late Richard Crossman in February, 1973, Mr Wilson said: "My own view now is that what you want is a strong Prime Minister's department." On his return to office in March, 1974, Mr Wilson established a small policy unit in 10 Downing Street under his senior policy adviser, Dr Ber-

nard Donoghue. Since then his style of government has been to make use of the Cabinet Office, the Civil Service Department, the Treasury and the Central Policy Review Staff, as well as the policy unit.

Whitehall observers say Mr Wilson does not believe that a prime minister should carry the burden of being a departmental minister with responsibility for a large staff in addition to his existing duties. That would seem to rule out the possibility of a Prime Minister's department during his present term of office.

The detailed review of the Civil Service Department, which has an establishment of 5,467 officials, will be carried out by a team of six under an assistant secretary. The team includes a representative of the management consultants, Cooper's and Lyons's Associates Ltd, and Professor A. D.

S. Carter, head of the mechanical engineering department at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, who will review the workings of the Civil Service College.

Last week Mr John Herbecq, deputy secretary in charge of the department's management group, was appointed Second Permanent Secretary to the Civil Service Department in succession to Sir Ian Bancroft, who moved to the Department of the Environment as Permanent Secretary.

Mr Herbecq will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department under Sir Douglas Allen, who has additional responsibility, as head of the Home Civil Service, for supervising the appointment and promotion of top officials in the senior policy and management group as well as advising the Prime Minister on the machinery of government.

Mother finds sons dead in caravan

The mother of a travelling family of nine who is expecting her tenth child found three of her sons dead in their fumefilled caravan on waste ground at Belle Isle estate, Leeds, yesterday.

Mrs Margaret Cash found Edward, aged 16, Daniel, aged 12, and William, aged 10, dead in their beds. Another brother, Patrick, aged 16, is seriously ill.

The police said foul play was not suspected. They took away a paraffin heater

Paying council rent by giro to cut arrears

From John Charrles
Manchester

The introduction in Manchester of council house rent payments by giro will mean that 150 rent collectors will be among those able to take on a new and more rewarding role of "estate management officers", some of whom will probably have degrees in sociology or kindred subjects.

Manchester is joining a growing list of large local authorities handing over rent collection to the Post Office Giro system. Tenants will be able to pay their rents at any one of 267 post offices in the city.

The new estate management officers would be paid at the same rate as social workers and many of them would be graduates. Councillor Allan Roberts, chairman of the city housing committee, said:

Three pilot schemes in Manchester had shown that rent payment by giro could lead to substantial reductions in arrears, he added. The first was in Partington, a large new overspill area on the banks of the Ship Canal, where last month all the rents due were collected, plus 5 per cent of outstanding arrears. Arrears in another experimental area, Miles Platting,

on the north side of the city, had been reduced by £9,000.

Mr Roberts puts that down to the fact that the average council house or flat tenant does not really like falling into debt, but if he or she happens to be out when the collector calls there is an understandably strong temptation to spend the money on something else.

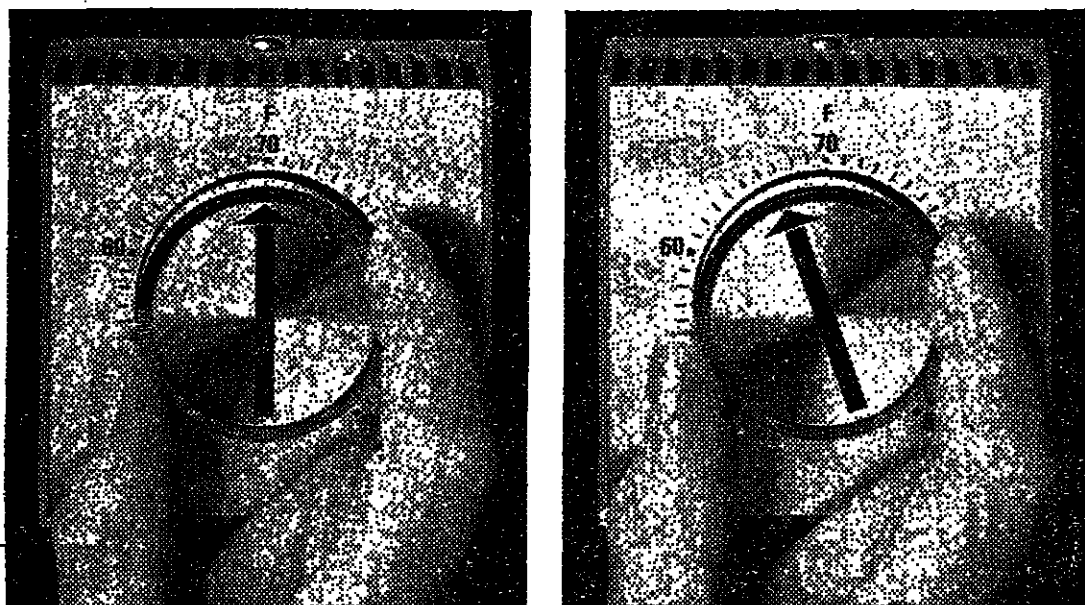
Manchester's rent arrears now stand at about £1.6m. Mr Roberts does not expect the giro method to wipe them out within a few months or even years, but he thinks there will be a "dramatic improvement".

Man is refused bail after year in custody

William Smyth, aged 37, said to have been in custody for nearly a year, was refused bail at the Central Criminal Court yesterday on a charge of possessing nitroglycerine.

Miss Ann Mallalieu, for the defence of Mr Smyth, an Irishman, of Third Avenue, Harrow Road, North Kensington, said his trial was due on January 14 next year.

Mr Justice Donaldson said Mr Smyth had been in custody much too long by modern standards.



You'll only feel the difference when your central heating bill arrives.

The cost of heating your house will be far greater this winter than last. The price of most fuels has risen dramatically - and heating probably accounts for two-thirds of the fuel you use.

But you can hold down your central heating bill if you take a few simple steps.

1. Setting your room thermostat 3°F below last year. This could trim the bill by as much as 15%. And you probably won't feel any discomfort.

2. Resetting your time clock to save an hour's heating every day.

3. Turning the radiators right down in rooms you're not using. (Not forgetting to close the doors.)



These steps may well reduce your fuel consumption by up to a third.

There are other things you can do throughout the winter.

If you're going away for the weekend, you can safely turn down to 50°F.

If you're having a Sunday lie-in, for instance, you can change the time clock so that it wakes the boiler up an hour or two later.

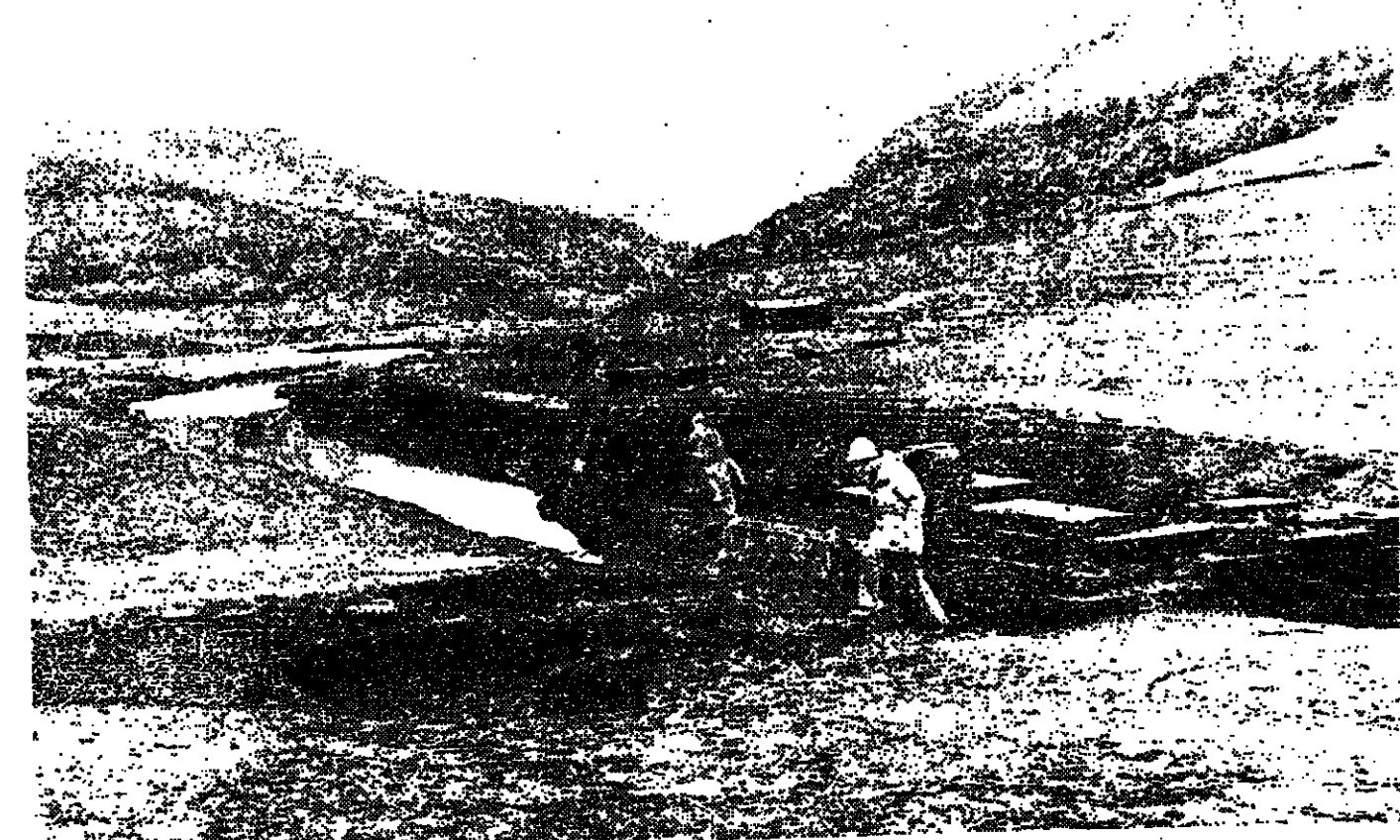
And it's worth checking your heating controls daily, to be sure they're going to do what you want them to.

There aren't many other ways to save so much money with so little effort.

Department of Energy.

Ask for advice and booklets at your Gas, Electricity or Solid Fuel Advisory Service Showroom or from your Fuel Oil Distributor.

HOME NEWS



Lack of rain has caused a reservoir complex in the Derwent Valley on the Yorkshire-Derbyshire border almost to dry up. Sightseers can view the ruins of villages submerged when the area was flooded in stages between 30 and 40 years ago.

Car test not strict enough, AA says

By Peter Waymark
Motoring Correspondent

After 15 years the Ministry of Transport car-testing system and its management are in virtual disarray and making only a limited contribution to road safety according to the Automobile Association's magazine, *Drive*.

It says that unscrupulous garage owners and mechanics have been accepting bribes from motorists to get cars through the test. It adds that the test is not strict enough to keep potentially dangerous cars off the road.

Drive criticizes the Department of the Environment for delaying the introduction of a stiffer test until 1979. According to expert opinion, it could and should be brought in nearly three years earlier, it says.

In South Devon, the magazine found a garage prepared to issue pass certificates through the test for £25. A mechanic in Croydon admitted that he

could get any car in any condition through the test, with the garage proprietor collecting £5 a time in addition to the normal test fee.

It found that at a south London garage the practice was to leave £10 with the old certificate in the glove compartment to ensure a successful test was linked to the purchase of new tyres costing £60.

The magazine notes the Department of the Environment's proposals for firmer action against offenders, but says that in the absence of spot-checking it is doubtful whether the culprits can be caught.

Questioning the value of the test, it cites the example of an eight-year-old Mini which passed the test legally, despite faults that contravened statutory vehicle regulations and five that might have jeopardized the driver's safety.

If those faults had been discovered...

covered on the road by a policeman fines totalling up to £300 might have been imposed, it says.

The Department of the Environment commented: "We have a very strict policy on cases of malpractice, which consists of one written warning followed by withdrawal of the authorization to carry out tests. This happens, on average, to about 330 testing stations each year."

On the scope of the test, the department said that if it were extended to cover all items the cost to motorists would be prohibitive. The issue of a certificate related to the condition of the car at that moment and should not be regarded as a 12-month guarantee of roadworthiness.

The date for the introduction of the revised test was chosen to allow garages to acquire the necessary equipment and was agreed after taking advice from the motor industry.

Tory pledge to parents on grants for students

By Our Education Correspondent

A Conservative government would free parents from having to contribute to their children's grants at universities and colleges, Mr Norman St John-Stevas, Opposition spokesman on education, science and arts, promised when he spoke at Mid-Essex Technical College, Chelmsford, yesterday.

He said: "There is no justice in a situation where students are deprived of their full grant because of the existence of the national contribution which many parents are either unable or unwilling to pay. The financial plight of students is all the more acute because of the drying up of the supply of vacation jobs because of the recession."

He said the quinquennial system of financing universities has been made inoperable by inflation. "We need now to devise a new and flexible system for supplementation. This is precisely the sort of problem a government think tank should be considering."

'Wed at 30' advice by Prince

By Philip Howard

The Prince of Wales bares his soul, or at any rate answers some personal questions in today's issue of *Woman's Own*.

His views in answer to readers' letters include the following:

On marriage: "I have fallen in love with all sorts of girls and I intend to go on doing so; but I have made sure I have married the first person I have fallen in love with. I personally feel that a good age for a man to get married is around 30. The Prince is 27 on Friday."

On fashion: "I don't believe in fashion, but I admit I am a little bit of a dandy. I couldn't care less. On his ancestors: "I do slightly associate myself with King George III because I happen to share an appreciation and sympathy with a lot of the things he did and enjoyed."

On modern times: "The more industrialized and affluent our lives become, the more standards tend to fall. I think one of the reasons the divorce rate goes up is because people no longer feel that marriage is that important."

On children: "I think inevitably some discipline is needed for children, and I think a lot of the discipline for them. I know I needed discipline."

Communist Party calls for subsidized printing group

By a Staff Reporter

Subsidized printing facilities should be made available to a wide range of democratic organizations, particularly in the Labour movement, to publish newspapers, the Communist Party of Great Britain told the Royal Commission on the Press yesterday.

Mr George Matthews, head of the party's press and publicity department, and a former editor of the *Morning Star*, told the commission that the proposed national printing corporation should make printing facilities available to groups that could not pay market rates.

Asked by Professor O. R. McGee, chairman of the commission, whether in his opinion there would have to be an upper limit on the amount of subsidy available, Mr Matthews replied that a commitment to £10m a year would probably meet the initial demand.

The Communist Party believed that representatives of the trade unions in printing and journalism, the TUC, local government, prominent individuals and the Government itself should be included on any national printing corporation.

Farmers query validity of pay report

Farmers questioned a report, published in *The Times* yesterday, in which the Low Pay Unit found that nearly half the farm workers' families it questioned went without breakfast because they could not afford it.

The National Farmers' Union yesterday questioned the validity of the method of obtaining the information and the small sample taken.

Recruits to the survey were obtained through a Jimmy Young radio show, which made it clear that low pay was being investigated, an NFU statement said. "It is obvious that those who volunteered information in response to a broadcast will, in the main, be those who hold a particularly strong viewpoint because of some grievance."

The NFU said it had rejected the workers' claim for a £9.50 a week rise.

Devolution no benefit to us, Shetland says

Shetland Island Council yesterday issued a statement saying that, recognizing Shetland's physical isolation from all other parts of Britain, it sees no benefit for its community from devolution other than that involving the independence of the islands. It wishes, for the time being, to continue its direct links with the Westminster Government.

Leading article, page 13

North Sea herring 'might be wiped out'

Warnings that North Sea herring might soon be wiped out by the "vacuum-cleaner" methods of industrial fishing, mainly by Denmark, will be given to delegates from 15 countries attending the meeting of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, which opens in London today. The threat is greatest to fishermen of Shetland and the east coast of Scotland.

Scientists engaged by a committee set up by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, as advisers to the commission, say the North Sea herring stock is a tenth of what it was 10 years ago. They point out that when there was similar fishing off the coast of Iceland in the 1960s the stocks collapsed and there is now no herring fishing.

They suggest a complete ban on specific herring fishing in the North Sea. "It is quite wrong for people to come to court not knowing how to do their case, taking up the time of the court and taking precedence over people who have gone to solicitors and counsel."

Mr Bertram Caulton, another petitioner, was told by the judge: "I do not mind doing your case for you, but other people are held up because of that."

After dealing with Mr Caulton's petition, the judge granted him a decree and said: "I hope you will not go out of court and say there was no trouble getting it."

"Tell people if they are going to get a divorce to go to solicitors. If they cannot afford it they should apply for legal aid so that other people who pay do not get held up."

The judge told a third do-it-yourself petitioner, Mr Hilary Lewis, of Hillier Road, Battersea: "You did not do badly. You were better than the others. Do not tell people it was as easy as falling off a log. It is not. You could not have got it without my assistance. If you hear of someone trying to do it by themselves, advise them to do it."

The Law Society, the solicitors' professional body, said later: "Most divorces are done under the legal aid scheme; that is what it is there for."

"It always pays to take legal advice, especially on matters such as divorce, which may involve custody of children and division of property rights. People are not lawyers. It is not necessarily easy to prepare your own case. You can so easily make a complete hash of it."

Fraud plot leader 'man of little education'

The hunchpin of a fraud plot was a man of little education who found it difficult to read and write, but had a forceful personality, the prosecution alleged at Eastleigh Magistrates' Court, Hampshire, yesterday.

Eleven men, including a Bank of Scotland manager, appeared on conspiracy charges. Reporting restrictions have been lifted. The 11 are Leonard Davis, aged 42, of Beechcroft Avenue, Croyley Green, described as the man at the centre of the web; Philip Conroy, aged 46, of Hillier Road, London; Colin Chambers, aged 41, of Station Road, Amersham; Christopher Willis, aged 31, of Lawford Close, Chorleywood; Roy Bayliss, aged 31, of Kingsdand Road, Haddenham; David Nelson, aged 46, of Silesbridge Lane, Chorleywood; Michael Kemp, aged 30, of Jan Mitchell Crescent, Hollyway; Ian Mitchell, aged 31, of Stratford Road, Milton Keynes; and Peter Sauer, aged 44, of Calverton Road, Stone Stratford.

They are all accused of conspiring to obtain money from the Bank of Scotland and to obtain overdrafts from the bank.

Warning to do-it-yourself divorce petitioners

People who prepare their own petitions for divorce received a warning from a judge in the London Divorce Court yesterday.

Mr Stanislaus Seuffert, QC, sitting as a special commissioner, granted a decree nisi to Mr Matthew Gorodil, of Grosvenor Gardens, Golders Green, London, and told him: "It is quite wrong for people to come to court not knowing how to do their case, taking up the time of the court and taking precedence over people who have gone to solicitors and counsel."

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WEST EUROPE

Mr Callaghan unrepentant over British demand for separate seat at world energy conference

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary last night in the Commons showed that he was unrepentant over his insistence that Britain should have a seat at its own at the proposed world energy conference and that the country should not be represented by the EEC delegate alone.

Opening a debate on foreign affairs, he told MPs that while the British Government had done nothing so far to hinder the presence of the Community at the conference, there would be nothing but impotence and frustration unless there was better preparation than at present. He could see problems emerging and hurried meetings of the Nine being called to find some patchwork formula which would represent the highest common factor of agreement on issues where there were substantial differences.

By 1980, he noted, the United Kingdom would be producing 90 per cent of Europe's oil and 45 per cent of the EEC's total production of energy. Britain had invested and would continue to invest a greater proportion of its gross national product in energy production than anyone else, running into many thousands of millions of pounds.

There was no common approach to these problems and he would be neglecting his responsibilities if he did not claim British representation. It was a matter of vital importance to Britain and if it was not represented it should do its best to make a success of the conference.

Mr Callaghan was also seen to be out of step with his European partners over direct elections to the European Parliament. It was clear that from the problems he foresaw there could be little chance of the original Community target date of 1978 being achieved.

He accepted that this was a treaty requirement and that Britain would honour it. But he pointed out that there were many issues which would be left to national governments to settle, including the preparation of the electoral roll, the decision on who was entitled to vote, the method of election, who had the right to be a candidate and whether there should be a dual mandate. There was also the question of constituency boundaries and of financing the election.

Mr Callaghan suggested that they should begin the process of discussion after the EEC summit in December.

From the Conservative front bench, Mr Maudlin, Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, questioned whether it was right for the British Government to press so strongly for separate representation at the energy conference.

He suggested that in the process other equally important British interests might be damaged, such as the cohesion of the Community and the success of the conference itself. Mr Callaghan, he said, was not giving sufficient attention in the stand he was taking to the contrary dangers.

Parliamentary report, page 7

'Red tape' strike by Italian civil servants

From Our Correspondent
Rome, Nov 10

Italian Government offices were paralysed today by a 24-hour strike of 350,000 civil servants demanding a reform of the inefficient state bureaucracy.

The civil servants want to streamline the methods that another every government decision in red tape and make relations with the state a citizen's nightmare. It takes years and mountains of paperwork, before a guardian can be hired for a hospital, a hospital built or compensation paid.

The Government itself has been forced to entrust school buildings to the nationalized industries rather than the Public Works Ministry, to get it done reasonably quickly.

One of the main demands, a trade union spokesman explained, is that each civil servant be allowed to take responsibility for his actions. The strikers want an end to the rigid hierarchy and regulations that prevent civil servants moving from one section of the administration to another.

The Government is reluctant to discuss any change in the system.

Difficulties in streamlining EEC farm policies

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Nov 10

The efforts of ministers of agriculture of the Nine to streamline the workings of the Community's agricultural policy seem likely to fall far short of the thorough reforms once sought by the British and West Germans.

A draft document being discussed by the ministers at one of their regular monthly sessions in Brussels today says more emphasis is to be placed on the policy than on its shortcomings. Drawn up by a senior agricultural official, it is designed to form the basis of a discussion paper for EEC heads of government at their summit in Rome next month.

On the positive side, the officials say that the common agricultural policy has improved the level and efficiency of food production, while guaranteeing farmers a reasonable standard of living and consumers security of supplies. They concede that some problems have arisen, but blame this largely on the Community's failure to make headway on other common policies, such as economic and monetary union and social welfare programmes.

The document says: "The agricultural policy cannot be judged as a single entity, but in the wider context of problems related to progress on all Community policies."

Blame for the difficulties is also partly shifted to the foreign ministers, who have concluded preferential trade agreements with countries outside the Community often against the interests of EEC farmers. The document says it would be "unfair and dangerous" for the general economic balance of the Community if the farmers were to shoulder the burden of a more liberal trading policy with non-member countries.

There are four specific areas where the officials feel that action is required to reduce surpluses and cut costs: beef, dairy products, cereals and wine; but no precise remedies are recommended.

During today's discussions, the agriculture ministers failed to make any progress on resolving the wine dispute between France and Italy. The Italian delegation again refused to discuss plans to improve the wine marketing system while the French continued to levy a tax on imports of Italian wine.

Nine accused of food aid parsimony

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Nov 10

EEC governments have been "solemnly" rebuked by the European Commission to reconsider their refusal to increase the volume of their joint food grain aid to the Third World in 1975 to 1977. The Commission says that the EEC will be defaulting on promises made at last year's World Food Conference if it fails to approve such an increase.

This admonition is likely to be followed by strong criticism later this week from members of the European Parliament. They will be holding a debate on world food policy and also voting on proposals for changes in the draft of the EEC's budget for 1976, which include an increase in the food aid allocation.

The Parliament's control over the budget is limited but not without a certain psychological impact. So far as food aid is concerned, it can do no more than propose increases in expenditure, leaving the final say to the Council of Ministers. Nevertheless, it is always uncomfortable for member governments to have their parsimony publicly advertised.

They are certain to be urged by Parliament to increase Community food aid at least to the level proposed by the European Commission.

Increasing cereals aid from 707,880 tonnes, which at present is the maximum the Council of Ministers is prepared to consider, to some 1,064,300 tonnes.

Community food aid accounts for about 55 per cent of the EEC's total commitment, the rest being undertaken individually by member states. If the Commission's proposals were approved, it would raise the total commitment for 1975-76 from 287,000 tonnes to about 1,640,000 tonnes, mainly consisting of grain but also including dairy products and sugar.

President Scheel begins five-day visit to Russia

Moscow, Nov 10.—President Scheel, the first West German head of state to visit the Soviet Union, flew into Moscow today for a five-day visit. He was met at the city's fog-shrouded airport by President Podgorniy.

Herr Scheel, co-chairman of Bonn's Ostpolitik, launched in the late 1960s when he was Foreign Minister under Herr Brandt, the former Chancellor, in, where he began the first of two sessions of talks with Mr Podgorniy.

However, the most substantial discussions of the visit, mainly concerning three controversial bilateral agreements, will be held between Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, his Soviet counterpart.

Herr Scheel begins a two-day tour of Central Asia on Thursday, leaving Herr Genscher in Moscow to discuss the three outstanding treaties—on scientific cooperation, on exchanges and legal representation.

All three, along with a proposed joint power plant near Kaliningrad, in former East Prussia, are held up over differing interpretations of how strongly West Berlin should be tied to the Federal Republic and how it should be represented in bilateral agreements.

Reuter.

French left split over victory tactics

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Nov 10

The Socialist Party is experiencing an increase in popular favour and its strength in the country is growing steadily. The Chateaufort, by-election demonstrated last month, thinks it has a good chance of winning the next parliamentary elections in 1978. That is what M. François Mitterrand, first secretary, raised at a weekend the thorny subject of what President Giscard d'Estaing should do in such case.

The question is embarrassing both in the President and to the Communist partners of the Socialist Party in the Union of the Left. When M. Robert Fabi, the leader of the left-wing Radical Socialists, went to the Elysee last month, the President admitted that he had ready answer to such a question.

It raises the built-in contradiction of the constitution, as amended in 1962 to provide for the election of the President by direct universal suffrage. So long as the majority in Parliament is the Socialist Party, a majority remain the same, as has been the case so far, all is well. But if they diverge, there arises deadlock, in which the President can either try to work with a hostile majority in Parliament or dissolve Parliament or resign.

M. Mitterrand said in a broad cast interview that if the vote decided in 1978, as he hopes they would, that the left should govern, M. Giscard d'Estaing would have to acquiesce in the left's victory. He would go to elections saying to the voters: "I give you a majority so that you do not govern, it would be absurd; it would be the way of losing the elections," he said. "I therefore say that the left will have to insist on governing with the current President of the Republic. We do not question the regularity of the presidential election of 1974."

M. Mitterrand was obviously anxious to quieten fears that victory of the left would provoke a constitutional deadlock.

This is part of the reassurance he is anxious to give of himself as a responsible statesman, and of his position as the leader of an aggressive force.

But the impression that President Giscard d'Estaing could remain at the Elysee palace if a left-wing government came to power, is not to the taste of the Communist Party nowadays. M. Mitterrand said that when President Pompidou had refused to envisage such a possibility for himself, M. Marchais, the Communist secretary general, was the first to protest.

The Communists are determined to check the rise in popularity of the Socialists at their expense by appearing even more intransigent than they are towards the President.

M. Pierre Juquin, a member of the Communist central committee, said in *L'Humanité* that Giscard d'Estaing might one day father a government which would apply to the letter the common programme of the left is an illusion. The aim of the left is to obtain a nice, friendly, as weak as possible, left, that he needs to modify the balance of forces in the left's weakened Communist Party, dominant Socialist Party.

M. Marchais emphasising on speech-making tour of the Seine: "We have no illusion. M. Giscard d'Estaing's programme will not expect of the mass of the Elysee that he applies. For the common programme, what is needed is a strong, influential Communist Party."

He went on to say that the struggle against the Giscard Government which will be a touchstone of the loyalty of parties that base their app on the union of the left. We do not see the future terms of negotiations with Giscard d'Estaing.

To make it quite plain the Communists remained dominant force of the left, called for an extension by nationalization, proposed by common programme, to steel industry.

Socialists cause crisis in San Marino

San Marino, Nov 10.—The Socialist Party today withdrew from the two-party coalition Congress of State of the Republic of San Marino and caused a political crisis.

The Congress of State, comprising 10 members elected from the Great and General Council of the Apennine republic of about 20,000 people, is the central organ of government. Seven of the members are Christian Democrats and the other three Socialists.

The Socialists say they were resigning because of a long period of inactivity by the Christian Democrats over the country's development plans.

AP.

Teacher faces two years' jail for racialism

Oslo, Nov 10.—A Norwegian college teacher is to be charged with racial discrimination after statements to television and newspapers about Norwegian Jews.

Mr Olav Hoasa, aged 43, faces a possible two-year prison sentence. He teaches at Stokmarknes county college in Nordland province.

He is accused of having told Oslo newspapers that he would like to see all Norwegian Jews deported to Israel, with those who refused to go interned in special camps.

AP.

Mannheim battle for soul of SPD

From Dan van der Vat
Mannheim, Nov 10

The biennial congress of West Germany's ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD), which opens here tomorrow, is likely to prove superlative in everything except controversy.

The party's executive gathered today in Mannheim on the eve of the conference to complete last minute preparations, a large proportion of which were concerned with reducing as far as possible the risk of open breaches between the politicians and the theorists.

The 436 delegates will be expected to dispose of nearly 1,500 motions under the eyes of the 1,000 journalists who have accredited themselves. Over 200 foreign guests will lend the congress the prestige of an international Socialist forum.

Herr Brandt, the party chairman, and Herr Schmidt, the Federal Chancellor, have invited Socialist leaders and heads of government, including Mr Wilson, to join them for talks on world economic problems and other international issues. The congress will last five days.

The SPD has still not emerged from the trough in its popularity attested by losses in recent regional elections. Party managers are thus determined to reassure the voters that the SPD is united behind Herr Schmidt's coalition Government and that the doctrinaire left does not dictate the party line.

Although the left is not as strong as it was at the last congress in Hannover in April, 1973, it could still find itself at odds with the leadership.

The most likely occasion this week for such disaffection as exists to be shown is during the debate on the party's newly worked out "directional framework for 1985"—a medium-term programme for the SPD.

This is one of those vast political documents which West German political parties are particularly fond of producing. The breadth of its scope and the degree of detailed policy proposed for all areas ensure that such a paper will disappoint as many as it pleases and that no grouping within the party will like it all.

The left also has strong feelings on Government efforts to curb the flagging economy, which it regards as inadequate. Linked with this is West Germany's latest political catch phrase—supervision of investment. The left thinks the Government should introduce this, while the Government

thinks it will scare off more voters.

There is also broad disaffection in the party at "obstruction" by the F. Democratic Party, the junior partner in the ruling coalition of the SPD Plan to exit workers' participation in industrial management. Union leaders are growing impatient on this six-year-old issue. Herr Brandt will need all his skill in reconciliation to induce from this congress a convincing endorsement of the policies of Herr Schmidt's coalition administration, be it a victory or a defeat.

All this means that Mannheim is about to become a scene of one of those family conflicts which always arise when a Socialist party's Government—an exercise in the struggle for power in the state—has been poured much of these troubled waters in the past. Most observers expect a dangerous controversy will be avoided for the sake of the party's chances in the federal election.

مركز الامم

EAS

ing harvest figures only 2% production rise

From Our Correspondent
Tokyo, Nov 10

China's harvest figures for 1975 are being released today, and the country's state planning commission has announced a 2% increase in grain production over the 1974 figure.

The increase is still alarming. In Peking, it is reported that the country's state planning commission has announced a 2% increase in grain production over the 1974 figure.

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e film shows US as oil saboteur

Both villains are eventually unmasked by local children but not before an abandoned aqueduct has been shown with the letters USA clearly marked on it.

A party official in the film gives a warning that "the two superpowers" are trying to spy on China's oil installations. The disagreement between China and Vietnam about sovereignty over the Paracels is not referred to.

This appears to be the first statement in a Chinese film suggesting enmity with the modern United States since the visit of Mr Nixon in 1972.

Writer says KGB tried to poison him

Moscow, Nov 10.—Zviad Gamsakhurdia, a Georgian writer and member of the Soviet group of the human rights organization Amnesty International, has accused the KGB, the Soviet secret police, of trying to poison him with toxic gas.

Mr Gamsakhurdia, aged 36, the son of Konstantin Gamsakhurdia, a distinguished writer and academician who died this year, made the accusation in a letter to Mr Yuri Andropov, head of the KGB, and Mr Alexei Insauri, head of its Georgian section. A copy of the letter reached Western reporters today.

Mr Gamsakhurdia has had several encounters with the KGB and this year lost his teaching job at Tbilisi University. He claimed that on September 20 gas was sprayed into his house, causing him and his wife dizziness, increased pulse-rate and shortage of breath.

frican poet faces h penalty

August from self-imposed exile in Paris, using the name Christian Galaska and posing as a Frenchman. He was detained a few days later as he was about to fly out of the country, they say.

Mr Breytenbach's Vietnamese-born wife, Yolande, arrived here on Saturday with a one-week visa. She visited her husband in jail at the weekend, but was not in court today.

The 13-page charge-sheet lists the names of student leaders, lecturers and others said to have conspired with Mr Breytenbach. Many of them were arrested in police raids in August and September. Justice Ministry sources say some will be called as witnesses at Mr Breytenbach's trial and some will stand trial later.

It says the aim of the Atlas organization was "the revolutionary transformation of South African society under the leadership of the black liberation movement". This was to have been done by various means, including "armed struggle and underground work".

Mr Breytenbach is said to have been involved not only during his last visit, but during a well-publicized visit to South Africa in 1973, when he brought his wife. They are not allowed to live together under South Africa's racial laws.—Reuters.

ca talks resume

The conference on South-West Africa resumed today after a two-month hiatus. The talks are being held in Geneva and are being chaired by the United Nations Secretary-General.

The conference is the first since the UN Security Council's 1975 decision to place South-West Africa under UN trusteeship. The decision was a response to the apartheid policies of the South African government.

Money crisis threatens Tokyo with state takeover

New York-style collapse impossible because of legal limit on city's budget deficit

From Our Correspondent
Tokyo, Nov 10

Tokyo is facing an economic crisis that could end with the city's administration being placed under the direct supervision and control of the Japanese Government. Total financial collapse of the kind facing New York is not possible because of a legal arrangement which provides for state intervention should local government deficits exceed a defined limit, but the situation is nonetheless grave.

Dr Ryokichi Minobe, aged 71, the governor of Tokyo, now seldom flashes the "million dollar" smiles which were said to have contributed greatly to his reelection in April for another four-year term. He has not lost the gravity which made him one of Japan's best dressed politicians, but is now said to

be "less concerned with what suits he should wear and which matching handkerchief he should display in his breast pocket."

His irritation and frustration are understandable, for the Marxist economist now faces the gravest financial difficulty of his administration. During the current fiscal year (ending March, 1976), he is committed to neutralize deficits amounting to 300,000 yen (about £500m), falling which his administration risks the prospect of falling within the category of "entity for rehabilitation". This would be an admission that the metropolitan government could no longer function as an autonomous body.

The biggest cause of Tokyo's deficit is the poor tax revenue cut the city yields. On the other hand, city expenditures are to

increase by 140,000 yen over the original budget, largely because of wage increases, bonuses and generous retirement allowances (a bureau director has received 40m yen, about £67,000, as retirement allowance).

How, then, does the governor propose to counter the decreased revenue and increased outlay? He is planning as a first step to "defer" until next fiscal year the payments of 90,000 yen earmarked for wage increases and retirement allowances. He is also calling for "drastic cuts" in operational funds amounting to 40,000 yen. Finally, he is taking advantage of the legal provision that city authorities are authorized to float bonds.

While these measures would cut the deficit considerably, there is another basic "trap"

Followers of Shaikh Mujib fight troops

From Our Correspondent
Calcutta, Nov 10

Although the situation in Bangladesh appears to be under control, there are reports of widespread clashes in other parts of the country. Students and other supporters of Shaikh Mujibur Rahman, the President killed in the August coup, have been fighting with troops and police in many places.

Clashes are said to have occurred also between different groups of the armed forces. Reports from points on the India-Bangladesh border and from travellers using land routes suggest particularly strong resistance in the northern districts. One report claimed that the districts of Rashahi, Pabna, Tangail and Mymensingh have been virtually cut off from the rest of the country.

Armed resistance is said to have been organized by followers of Mr Tajuddin Ahmed, Mr Mansoor Ali and Mr Karuzzaman, all close associates of Shaikh Mujib.

President Abu Sadat Muhammad Sayem, the new leader of Bangladesh, has announced a new allocation of ministries to himself and heads of the armed forces, according to Bangladesh radio monitored in London.

The radio was quoted by Reuters as saying that the President would be responsible for Foreign Affairs, Defence, Planning, Law and Parliamentary Affairs and Justice, as well as the President's secretariat and the Cabinet secretariat.

Polish leader meets complaining wives

Warsaw, Nov 10.—A debate has taken place between Mr Edward Gierek, the Polish party leader, and several hundred women who complained about the shortage of consumer goods as well as housing problems.

He said: "Every if you think that those in Warsaw are not bothering about prosaic problems, I can assure you that we know all about these problems and we are trying to solve them."

Mr Jaroszewicz said that "there are too many shoddy products turned out from good materials". He added: "The crucial question is the attitude

of the workers towards their task and the carrying out correctly of factory techniques... It would be ideal if each worker wanted to buy the product he made."

The debate is part of a campaign by the leaders on the eve of the seventh party congress, which is to open in Warsaw. But the Lodz debate differed in tone from the others. Both Mr Gierek and Mr Jaroszewicz realized that they were speaking to an audience which every day was coming into contact with what was officially termed "shortages".—Agence France Presse.

New code of ethics for Indian papers proposed

From Our Correspondent
Delhi, Nov 10

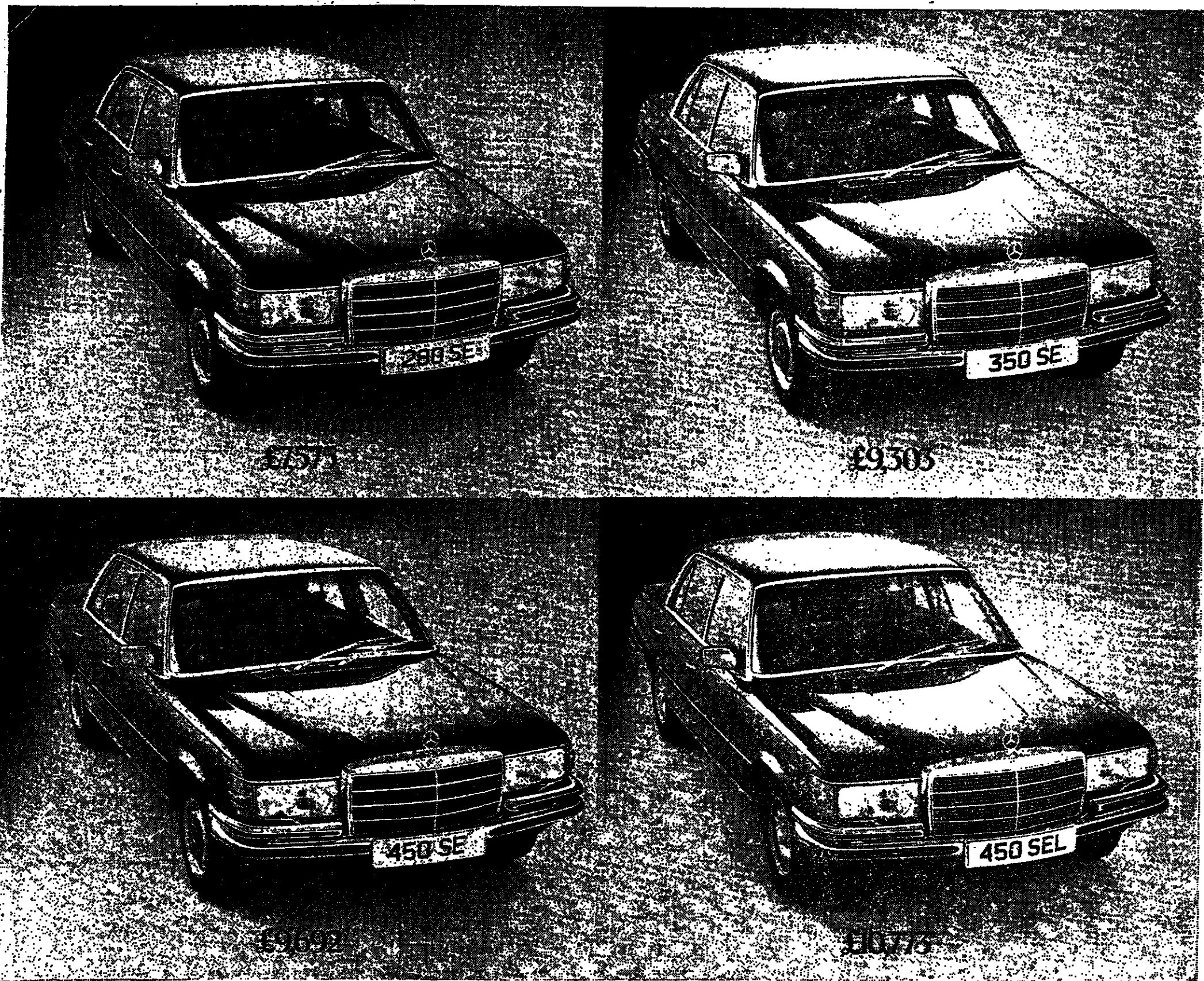
A code of ethics for Indian journalists and newspapers may replace the present guidelines which editors follow. The code has been prepared by a committee of editors appointed by the Government. The committee itself will have a main say in dealing with those who violate the code.

It is possible that the group will replace the Press Council, which concludes its extended tenure at the end of this year.

The Government also proposes to introduce legislation to prevent newspapers from indulging in character assassination and publishing tendentious and baseless reports.

Mr V. C. Shukla, the Information Minister, who released the details of the code, has not yet indicated who will decide what constitutes tendentious and baseless reports.

The code proposes that journalists and newspapers will promote and protect the national objectives.



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ENTERTAINMENTS

PERA AND BALLET
ROYAL BALLET
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CONCERTS
THEATRES
CINEMAS
ART EXHIBITIONS

THE ARTS

Burne-Jones, born Jones

One of the reasons artists form groups is to get their work more prominently before the public. But this leads to a lack of response. People like or dislike the impressionists or the Pre-Raphaelites without discriminating between individual painters. A series of exhibitions of the work of Madox Brown, Millais, Holman Hunt and Rossetti during the last decade has made it easier to assess the individual importance of those associated with the Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood. Madox Brown was easily the best painter of his masterpieces. Work by the finest English painter of his time, Madox Brown, and his best were good painters, although uneven. Rossetti was just downright bad. How does Burne-Jones stand, as revealed in the large exhibition at the Hayward Gallery?

Burne-Jones in Birmingham in 1833, he added the Burne in the 1860s, and completed it with a hyphen when given a baronetcy in 1894. The centenary exhibition at the Tate was opened by his nephew by marriage, Stanley Baldwin, not entirely inappropriately, as there is a comfortable whiff of pipe dreams about Burne-Jones. More or less self-taught, except for some lessons from Rossetti (not the most vigorous of teachers) the contact with William Morris was the most vital influence. His painted furniture, his stained glass and illustration are his strongest parts. And, as with Rossetti, some of his best and most affected works were the caricatures drawn in letters to friends, like that of his formidable cleaning woman.

He gained a reputation of being "good at figures", and Morris set him to decorate furniture. He seems to have carried something over from this into his paintings, and there is often a curious inconsistency between the figures and the rest of the picture, which is not wholly explained by the fact that he often used assistants to help cope with the volume of work (which was, after all, accepted medieval or Renaissance practice). The Garden of Pao, for instance, looks rather like those Victorian photographs printed from more than one negative, or those where figures are posed against a studio backdrop. Burne-Jones figures are often ambiguously bi-sexual, which probably explains the sudden popularity for reproduction of his paintings in the late '60s in the era of the flower children, who looked as though they might have stepped from his pictures.

The Hayward exhibition, carefully put together by John Christian, shows him to have been a more varied painter than he appears in British museum collections. The portraits (all lent by private owners) are odd and original, particularly those of his wife and daughter. Their style is derived from Renaissance portraiture, but here past precedent is used with greater directness than in his wistful figure compositions. He apparently didn't relish portrait painting. Perhaps he should have done more of this exacting work than that which clearly came too easily to him. "I mean by a picture a beautiful romantic dream of something that never will be—in a light better than any light that ever shone—in a land no one can define or remember, only desire—and the forms divinely beautiful."

At the end of last century Burne-Jones was an influence on European symbolism. There are works in European collections, some of which, like the weird *The Beheading*, one of his Persians series from Staatsgalerie in Stuttgart, have been lent for the exhibition. But the influence would have been mainly through reproductions, and he is a painter whose work is concentrated and tutored when reproduced. Yet he never rises to the febrile intensity of Hunt at his best, nor has he the occasional flashes of brilliance of Millais. The exhibition continues until January 4 and will then be seen at Southampton and Birmingham.

Discovery and Investigation is an exhibition of five contemporary Swedish artists at the Serpentine Gallery (until December 7). The two who best illustrate this somewhat arbitrary title are Torsten Renqvist, and Sten Eklund. Renqvist, who spent a year at the Slade in the early Fifties and only turned to sculpture 10 years ago, makes hewn forms of animal and man. His is consciously adopted primitivism, but unlike many artists who have turned to such a style he has not let it harden into an endlessly repeated mannerism, but left a way open for the play of possibilities of imagination and discovery.

Sten Eklund, a generation younger, has created a mythical terrain discovered by an imaginary professor in the mid-nineteenth century. This domain of cultivation and habitation but, apparently, no people is mapped and described in a series of watercolours, etchings and models, the whole display like that of a natural history museum, a re-creation of a world of the imagination. The figures in Tom Kresset's paintings remind one of Francis Bacon's, blurred and often screaming, and presumably there must have been a direct influence. But imprisoned on wooden panels they remind one of a supposed inevitability of the contents of individuals, locked in their own loneliness, of Ingmar Bergman's later films. The nautical ropes and blocks of Lars Milhagen are more international-ordinary, but the painter's surrealistic vegetable figures look no more like clever graphic design.



Paul Overy Lady Burne-Jones with her children Philip and Margaret in the background

Rebellion and change through three pairs of eyes

Paris
The first films of the Parisian Rentrée, *The Story of O* and *The Beast*, pointed to a revolution in one area of French cinema. But the resulting fuss and furor obscured another enactment of rebellion and a serious attempt to examine this conflict between tradition and change. Godard's latest film, *Numéro Deux*, is ironically presented as a "remake" of *A Bout de Souffle* (1960), aimed as a joke against his past tradition of making films. *Numéro Deux* is a more measured study of each generation's rebellion against the immediate past. *Souvenirs d'en France* traces the history of an industrial family through three generations and two wars. The nature of change is not only expressed in the consistently changing costumes and manners, but also in the changing style of the film. *Numéro Deux* captures the luxurious, melodramatic cinematic images of the epoch. He plays on his modern audience's flippancy and its need for a modern narrative style and hurls them into a feeling of immaturity and safety. Highly-charged emotions are conveyed without reference or threat to the present. This distancing in time allows the audience to enter into the emotional world of the first and second generations and to empathize when their world is made redundant.

As the film moves towards the present day, the conflicts and mores come too close to the audience and new to the audience is achieved. The audience is obliged to retreat as its world is brought into question. The process of rebellion is turned in on itself. But the cyclic motion of the film, which prevents the audience from seeing inevitable force, prevents moralizing or blame. *Numéro Deux* can be seen as a study of the problems of the rejected elders of society, but the history of the film is in the visual and rhythmic sensitivity to the ebb and flow of each rising generation.

Godard, ensconced in his video workshop in Grenoble, announced recently his exile and his intention to return to his native France. He is also attempting to exile himself from his own past. *Numéro Deux* bears no relationship to its source. Obviously, it is another study of the three generations of a family.

But the film seems to be, primarily, an attempt to dislocate words through verbal punning. Each sentence is preceded by a title, rather in the manner of a peep show. At the end of the vignette the title is repeated and transformed, letter by letter, into the next sentence. During this process the links between words are suggested and dissolved. An attempt, perhaps, to undermine the relationship of words to one another.

Godard says: "My greatest enemy is my written word. Nowadays we begin to learn to read much earlier. Vision seems to be forbidden. In the papers we read about Vietnam, but we are not shown it. It's a form of censorship."

Godard's attempt to dislocate the written word involves the structure and subject of the film: the titles are mainly incongruous with the sequences they introduce; a rupture in

Wilhelm Kempff Festival Hall

Richard Evidon
Kempff's association with the music of Beethoven has probably been of a duration and intimacy unmatched by any other pianist now before the public. Formerly his Beethoven playing embraced such virtues as muscular impulse and an assured grip of structural tension (easy to forget that a fiery Hammerklavier was one of Kempff's recorded feats in the 1950s); now its chief distinction is the gentler virtue of unaffected lyricism.

An introspective programme, including the sonatas in E minor, D minor and the late A

Wilm Kempff Festival Hall

flat major promised an afternoon untroubled by spiritual or physical struggles, and Kempff's readings largely avoided even internal contrast. His dynamic range stayed close to the centre of the spectrum, and his tempos valued safety before momentum. In other words, his music making mixed the blessings and hindrances of an old age gracefully attained.

The waning facility of a man about to enter his ninth decade was not disguised by an almost desperate reliance on the sustaining pedal. Lost in the E minor Sonata's opening movement were many of the rests which from the very first bars separate this music's Janiform faces of bravado and supplication. In the C major Sonata op 2 no 3, the recital's only venture into virtuosic territory, this free pedalling and a tempo

Williams/de Saram Queen Elizabeth Hall

Stephen Walsh
The guitar as usual pulled in a full house for Sunday's two-man show by John Williams and Rohan de Saram, the cellist. But not altogether surprisingly it was the cello which stole most of the thunder. One can get some idea of the difficulties which confront the poor guitarist on those occasions from the ironic fact that Mr Williams' main item, the so-called Lute Suite No 3 in A minor, by Bach, is actually a composition of the C minor Cello Suite. It seemed ludicrous to be listening to that piece, albeit played as well as anyone could hope, with a first-rate cellist sitting backstage.

Neither player, though, was at his best in the first half, devoted to Bach. John Williams played tastefully without persuading one that the guitar is an apt substitute for a sustaining instrument in music so heavily dependent on "false" polyphony. In the C major Suite, on the other hand, Rohan de Saram's rather exaggerated nasal tone damaged the music's reflective character, making it sound mean and puerile.

But Mr de Saram came into his own in a brilliant performance of the finale of Kodaly's solo Cello Sonata. A dry tone seemed if anything an advantage in music of such ostentatious bravura, and there was something appropriate in the contempt with which Mr de Saram threw off the sonata's skidding multiple-steps. High wire acts are never impressive if the performer looks uneasy.

John Williams' counterpart to that was an almost entirely reflective movement by Petrarca called *Nunc*, much more successfully than the Bach since it allowed scope for that conversational manner which suits the guitar, and put its always surprising range of timbre to good use. But still the music was hardly more than agreeable and left no imprint in the memory.

Stephen Leddington's Duo, composed for these players, achieved considerably more than that. Although the guitar still conditioned a prevailing intimacy and elusiveness of mood, the dialogue was so cunningly contrived between contrast and imitation that the scale of the ideas seemed to justify the length of the six-movement suite.

NPO/Atherton/Klien Festival Hall

Thomas Walker
There was much to admire in David Atherton's reading of the Egoist Overture in his all-Beethoven concert on Sunday at Festival Hall. One could manage to stay awake. From that impudent and unjust Floristish remark "I shall beat an immediate Eusebian retreat" the results of careful study were everywhere apparent, attention to the score's visible details nearly faultless. Gentle sforzandos and rather easy-going tempi gave a tender cast to Goethe's hero, with fire and nobility only secondary virtues. Odd moments of faulty wind chording did not seriously interfere with the music's impact, but they also were not limited to this part of the programme.

I am similarly of two minds about Atherton's view of the seventh symphony. If the first movement wanted brightness it also wanted subtlety. It would be cruel to suggest an indifference to tonal harmony, but throughout the slow introduction one opportunity after another for planting the seeds of dramatic tension came and went, and that told later on in climaxes which failed to make their full point. Beethoven's treacherous pointed rhythms stretched out lazily as the movement progressed, which I suppose they nearly always do except with a rigorous and regular taskmaster.

Both the first movement and the allegretto showed a good sense of pacing and a willingness to grasp the lyric moment; a staid, more restrained hand in the timing of crescendos, more devotion to the sudden piano, and the second movement would have reached its full maturity. Atherton played it with vigour and delicacy, and followed with a rowdy and effective romp through the finale.

Walter Klien brought to the third piano concerto a sure technique and, particularly in the largo, a fairly supple approach to the quieter poetry. He knows when to fade into the orchestral foliage, and that tent much to the effectiveness of the slow movement's middle section. But it was not on the whole a poetic performance, nor an exciting one. Gestures seemed all of a size, dynamics gravitated far from *mezzo-forte*. It is difficult to judge how much he was hindered by an impassive accompaniment.

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The Times Special Reports.

All the subject matter on all the subjects that matter

Melinda Camber Porter



he Government make their preparations for the publication of the White Paper it is that they are in such difficulties over devolution because they are pursuing so many divergent objectives at the same time. They want above all to end the break-up of the United Kingdom. Yet they run the danger of playing into the hands of the Scottish Nationalists by creating a new Scotland which the SNP may name, or by breaking their election commitment to set up an assembly.

It is this understandable contradiction, the actual effect of an inability on Scotland has proved too little public discussion to now. It has been the topic, or perhaps even more symbol, of the assembly that has been the object of debate. It has been an understandable must to give a case for going ahead with devolution is if the Government were to fail to honour their commitment would present a weapon of old power to the Scottish nationalists. "Not to proceed in creating an elected assembly," it was argued in these minutes on October 25, "would therefore probably be fatal to the unity of the United Kingdom." But one must also consider more specific effect upon the rest of the United Kingdom of whatever assembly be created. Mr Grimond set certain considerations over western which are of particular significance.

The first was that devolution would not mean more government. The Scots are acutely aware of this recently had a new structure of local government imposed on them. Many of the new local authorities are distinctly unpopular, partly because their form seems an extension of bureaucracy and partly because

of some large and well publicized salary increases for officials. There is a considerable fear of an assembly simply providing one more tier to a cake that is already somewhat heavy. Mr Grimond's second principle was that there should not be centralization in Glasgow or Edinburgh any more than in London. This should be considered in conjunction with the first point: if the United Kingdom were to be broken up, as the Scottish National Party wants, then Orkney and Shetland must reconsider their position."

This last point was reinforced yesterday by the Shetland Council declaring that it saw no benefit to the Shetland community from any devolution other than the decision to devolve the independence of Shetland "and in such circumstances wishes for the time being the continuation of its direct links with Westminster government". This emphasizes the differences that exist within Scotland. The Shetlanders may be considered a special case, in their remoteness from the Scottish mainland and the preservation of their own way of life, but they are not alone in their fear of being run by a remote assembly sited in Edinburgh but dominated by the needs of greater Glasgow.

More than a third of Scotland's population is in the Strathclyde region and it is here that Scotland's social problems are concentrated. So the logic of political arithmetic and sheer need would together make it natural for the policies of an assembly to be heavily influenced by the social philosophy and electoral power of the west of Scotland industrial belt. Yet conditions and attitudes there are by no means typical of Scotland as a whole. Scotland is a country of many differences. The gap in the ways of life

between the urban squalor of parts of the Glasgow conurbation and the Border towns or Highland villages is as great as any to be found in the United Kingdom. Glasgow, with its role as a port and commercial centre, and its large Irish population, is very different from the sedate professional city of Edinburgh.

These differences in life style and social attitudes within Scotland have to some extent been subsumed within the wider entity of the United Kingdom. Regional variations have been permitted in many fields without it being thought necessary to have a common Scottish pattern. Only if such variations can continue under a Scottish assembly can that be an instrument for the happy government of Scotland as opposed to a mere expedient for dising the Nationalists. That points to two conclusions.

The first is that the powers of the assembly should come downwards from Westminster not upwards from local government. It would be a recipe for perpetual friction if decisions that are now taken locally in Scotland were in future to be taken in what to many will appear as the remote fastness of the assembly. Secondly, these differences within Scotland are the argument for electing the assembly by proportional representation. This is a case where it will be particularly necessary to ensure that the voice of the minority will have influence. But probably the most important conclusion of all is that these considerations should be fully examined in the great public debate on devolution that is now beginning in earnest. Have the people of Scotland really understood the implications of London rule being replaced by Glasgow rule? Is that what they really want?

the face of it, King Hassan made a fool of himself, having marched his 350,000 men to the Spanish Sahara he has marched them out again. One should not be too hard on him. It would in fact have been a great deal more foolish to order his marchers on through Spanish minefields, or indeed have ordered a straightforward seizure of the territory by his armed forces, even though either those courses of action might have been better for his honour and might also have been in the Moroccan annexation of the territory which his armed arm.

It is the danger of war alone, but perhaps only momentarily, and the danger of expropriation against the wishes of the inhabitants remains. At a press conference yesterday the Moroccan information minister, Ahmed Taïbi Benhima, said the marchers would remain on the border until the end of the negotiations with Spain, and would cross the frontier again after the result.

In other words, the Moroccans claim that Prince Juan Carlos, having gratified the Spanish king and reinforced his own national position by a show of force, will now accept the principle of a peaceful handover of the territory to Morocco. Other Madrid has given them a good reason. "We hope this is an open guess. What is clear is that King Hassan has not abandoned his claim to the territory and still reserves the right to make it good by force if negotiations fail. The main cause remains the opposition

of Algeria, which clearly played an important role in stifening Spain's attitude (perhaps by hinting at a cut-off of Spain's gas supplies), and now seems to be trying to woo Mauritania away from its alliance with Morocco.

The Moroccans have laboured the point that Algeria's attitude is probably not disinterested. The Algerian Government may well hope that an independent state in the Western Sahara, ruled by the Frente Polisario, would be amenable to Algerian influence and would provide a corridor to the Atlantic for exports from the Algerian Sahara, notably iron ore.

Governments tend to pursue wholly disinterested policies. But interests do sometimes coincide with principle, and the weight of reason is certainly seen in this case to be on the Algerian side. It has been an accepted principle for years both of the United Nations and of the Organization of African Unity that the right of self-determination should be exercised within the frontiers drawn by the former colonial powers.

Morocco considers that its claim to the Spanish Sahara should constitute an exception to this rule, since Morocco was an internationally-recognized state before being partitioned between France and Spain. In deference to this argument the UN General Assembly decided last year to consult the International Court of Justice, but the Court has not returned a verdict saying that the ties which existed between certain tribes of the Western Sahara and the Moroccan Sultans in the last century did not amount to sovereignty, and can-

not prejudice the right to self-determination of the present-day Saharan population.

Meanwhile a mission from the United Nations decolonization committee visited the territory and met the "tribe" population, or at least almost all those persons encountered by the mission was categorically for independence and against the territorial claims of Morocco and Mauritania". It recommended a referendum in which all Saharans belonging to the territory should vote. Given the nomadic nature of the population there is some doubt about who belongs to the territory and who does not. The mission stated that "the concerned and interested parties" agreed that this question should be decided by a commission of experts designated by the United Nations. Morocco apparently does not consider itself a party to this agreement, since Mr Benhima said yesterday that one of the objectives of the march was to "convince the United Nations that there are neither concerned nor interested parties: there are only the Moroccan people, for whom sending a delegation of 350,000 persons to the Sahara is better than sending a delegation to the United Nations".

None the less the mission's proposal remains the most sensible one to hand. Obviously it would take some time to implement, and during that time it is probably desirable that the Spanish administration should remain in place, under some kind of United Nations supervision. Morocco could use the time to try to improve her image among the Saharan population.

Mr Angus Maude (letters ber 16) s of course quite right saying that we should give more consideration to all electoral systems; my complaint is that (as the public the publishers reports is Blackpool) such shows do not do this. He certainly made clear distinction between party systems and the very different transferable vote form of PR. Maude really should not not be of being "disingenuous" in stating that the transferable vote requires constituencies of equal size each returning about five members. Of course it does (any other system necessarily involves multi-member constituencies and more meddling assistance with more or less the aim to show that I spend a large of my life insisting on that). No single-member system can possibly ensure even that the party the most votes wins the most seats. It also requires the multi-member constituency, but corrects distortions by having others up to 75 members.) I find it regrettable that Mr Le should stress a particular creative point of view, for this is not the only point of view. It is given that the party is clinging to a unjust system for no better than its own short-term usage. "No change in the electoral system will make it more than that we should win because of the advantages to the party's pronouncement in their conference—the present system worked for the other people, they were wise they could now work for themselves.

for Mr Adley (October 16), his referring of the ancient myth of France shows up the weakness of the case. No French party has ever been elected by any form of proportional representation

stable period. Constantly changing French governments became a music-hall joke long before 1945, when France was using, as it does now, a single member system which differs from our system in having only one ballot where no one candidate secures a clear majority on the first.

Nor do reformers here propose the French 1945 system, which was pure "two round" with no personal choice between candidates. And who claims that "if the system is changed, people's voting habits will remain the same"? We reformers certainly don't. On the contrary, we are constantly fighting assumptions that "if the system is changed, by our opponents' instance, that because, in our actual elections, no one party has polled over half the votes since 1906, the same would have happened if voting had been by STV.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED CREMAN,
Electoral Reform Society,
6 Chance Street, Southwark, SE1.

From Mr. Humphrey F. Sassoon
Sir, One does not have to quarrel
with your general assessment of
President Ford's abilities in order
to support his refusal to spend
federal money bailing out New York
City. This refusal seems correct
in the long run, even if his reasons
are short-term (cessing, because
he has not yet been elected).

New York's *raison d'être* is com-
merce. Huge profits are made
there, including profits from the
fact that "welcome" poor
immigrants. I and many others can
see no reason why that city should
be maintained with our tax money
instead of those profits in a sup-
posedly free economy.

One result would be to increase
federal control over other towns

vent than New York. Such control readily becomes socialism which, looking eastward, we think is more to be avoided than the default of one trading post, however big. Also, nothing less than default seems likely to generate more honest bookkeeping by the rich merchants than the controls like New York. The bookkeeping of these cities does need revision.

Yours, etc.

HUMPHREY F. SASSOON,
110 Washington Circle,
Washington Grove,
Maryland 20880, USA,
October 31.

Import controls

From Mr George B. Pincus

Sir, What Len Murray and others who are in the Government want is import controls on foreign car manufacturers need to remember is that the jobs of thousands of British workers depend upon the continued growth of foreign car manufacturers.

From Mr. George B. Pincus
Sir, What Len Murray and others who are pressing the Government for import controls on foreign cars are trying to remember is that the jobs of thousands of British workers depend upon the continued presence and growth of foreign car manufacturers.

All the car importers maintain well-staffed head, and in some cases regional, offices. They also have millions of pounds invested in import centres, parts-warehouses and depots, and selling and equipment necessary to sell and maintain cars on the road.

In addition, there are thousands of car dealers, garages and others in the repair system, all employed by British labour, who will have to make workers redundant if import controls are imposed.

The real remedy, surely, is to maintain and improve the quality of the British product and to persuade motorists to prefer to buy it.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE B. PINCUS,
Managing Director,
Carl Ally Ltd, Advertising,
22 Roland Gardens, SW7.
November 4.

From Mr George Tremlett
Sir, I am afraid Jean Merriton, GLC Labour Member for Paddington (November 3), is inaccurate in her statements about the rehousing of squatters at Elgin Avenue, as is the Labour Chairman of the GLC Housing Development Committee, Richard Balfe.
He maintains that the squatter families are rehoused in properties which waiting-list families had refused to accept.
This is completely untrue.
Nine of the 18 properties had never been offered to waiting-list families, let alone refused by them.
The so-called "compromise" achieved at Elgin Avenue "is nothing more than an abdication to lawlessness."
Nobody is suggesting that all squatters are layabouts, parasites and thugs. We all recognize that many people squat because London's housing is in a parlous state—although there are those who do so because it is a cheap and easy way to get a roof over their heads.
But there must be some fair means of allocation whilst thousands of families are on the waiting list. If the law gave the law of the jungle it would be the weak, the poor and the infirm who would get trampled on.
Yours faithfully,
GEORGE TREMLLETT,
Opposition Spokesman,
GLC Housing Development Committee.
Members' Lobby,
The County Hall, SE1.

From Miss Christine Pemberton
Sir, As an ex-officer of the Oxford Union, I would like to take issue with Mr Pegg (November 7) for his harsh attack on the Society.

Not a "great debating society or even a good training ground"? Mr Pegg obviously did not watch the great debates, and he should not listen to the enthusiastic comments of non-Oxford viewers. The very high membership figures each year belie his charge that the Oxford Union is only for a tiny minority of undergraduates. And as for being a "crumbling ruin"? I would suggest that Mr Pegg takes a very different view of this beautiful Victorian building and sees for himself the valuable and well-stocked libraries, the collection of pre-Raphaelite frescoes, and the charming garden, all of which are far from "crumbling".

Mr Pegg's final accusation is absurd, that he has never taken the trouble to go to know the Oxford Union which he joined, and now chooses to attack. If he knew the wide range of social backgrounds from which members are now drawn, and if he had listened to passionate debates on topics of contemporary relevance, he would never have dared to state that he knew nothing from debates about the problems facing the country.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE PEMBERTON,
35 Ellerton Road, SW18.

From Mr Michael Watts
Sir, Mr Rees-Mogg, Editor of *The Times*, has criticized some newspaper gossip columns for "straight scandalmongering".
Is it not the scandal to which one should object, rather than the mongering?
Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WATTS,
Sunday Express,
Fleet Street, EC4.

From Mr Jacques Arnold
Sir, Mr Clemens, Chairman of Mar-
plan Europe, claims (October 29)
that his interviewers showed respon-
dents what the results of the
last election might have been under
a system of proportional repre-
sentation. It is impossible to compute
such figures on the basis of any
system that includes a transferable
or preferential vote element. He
could only have computed a crude
percentage allocation of seats on
the basis of the national vote.
Having given them such a
crude set of figures which over-
simplify a complex issue, his inter-
viewers then asked which system
would be most fair to British
voters. The answers inevitably must
be based on the crude data
presented. Between the actual seats
party and Marplan's arithmetic,
without due consideration of
regional variances, candidates' per-
sonal votes, local representation,
or concentration and spreading of
votes.

Marplan then went on to ask
which result respondents preferred.
Not surprisingly only 29 per cent
preferred the actual result—about
equal to Labour's present support.
Fifty-nine per cent, no doubt
Sinn Féin, preferred the result that
put Labour in a minority on last
year's October election vote.

too often a reliance on aids such as Harpers' prompt cards, and too little clear answers due to the suddenness of the interview and of complicated questions. The opinion poll only proves that there was a self-evident disparity of figures on the prompt card. It is a pity that the opinion poll is a worthless opinion poll based on one free election result to indicate that we must make a long-term change to our electoral system that has invariably produced stable governments for the last century.

Yours faithfully,
JACQUES ARNOLD,
33A Nicholson Road,
Addiscombe, Surrey.

From Mr George Schwartz:
Sir, The Chrysler Corporation should be warned that it is no use putting a pistol to the head of our Government. The bullet would go through without hitting anything.
Yours faithfully,
GEORGE SCHWARTZ,
28 Spencer Drive,
Hampstead Garden Suburb, N2.

From M. P. M. Oppenheimer

Sir, I should like to endorse Professor Richard Portes' remarks (October 31) about pay levels in the Civil Service compared with private industry. I have been quoted in the *Financial Times*, published in July of this year by Synergy Publications Ltd, which surveys the market for professional and executive jobs in 35 occupations, as saying that the Civil Service is well paid from information given by some 50,000 individuals seeking new jobs, who registered with the government-sponsored agency PER between February and May 31, 1987.

The highest-paid category covered was that of general manager. No definition of a general manager post was given, but it presumably involves a substantial share of responsibility for the running of a business, otherwise it could hardly carry higher pay than, for instance, the post of company secretary. In the London area the median salary for a general manager was £40,000 and the upper quartile salary £48,400; this is the salary range paid in the Civil Service to principals who, while they should be skilled at sorting out ideas and making decisions, carry no significant responsibility for policy advice.

job market include those who are unemployed, the sample may be biased. The sample may also be less successful. There are also company perks—cars, travel etc. But, on consideration, such arguments cut little ice. Civil Service jobs are mostly in the more secure public sector jobs. And civil servants have perks of their own—notably their very favourable superannuation arrangements (non-contributory, half-terminal salary, indexed pensions) which I have commented on some months ago in the *Financial Times* by my colleague John Flemming.

It is true that the civil servants' most clear-cut advantage here is vis-à-vis the self-employed, who are severely discriminated against by current tax laws on superannuation; in effect, a self-employed person wishing to provide himself with a Civil Service-style pension has to pay income tax on the investment in superannuation contribution (in addition, of course, to the contribution itself). But company employees too are at a disadvantage. Companies feel unable to offer indexed pensions, not least because of the "topping-up" payments to the company pension fund. Admittedly this inequitable treatment of the private sector has come about partly by accident—a result of accelerated inflation in the 1970s, but not *but* accidental distortions need correcting too, if they persist for any length of time.

All of which raises the question of the activities of the Civil Service Pay Review Unit, which is supposed to monitor various sectoral changes in order to allow Civil Service pay to keep in step. The data cited above suggest that Civil Service pay may not have kept in step in recent years, but why have forged links with the private sector? Does the Pay Research Unit have other evidence? Has it taken account of the impact of inflation on the relative value of Civil Service pensions? Has it many other factors, ensuring that the job market equilibrium between the Civil Service and the private sector are endorsed by some-

From the Reverend Richard Harries
Sir, Chancellor Garth Moore propounds an old heresy in declaring that there is no connexion between a person's religious faith and their political standpoint. He writes: "A political programme . . . is largely a matter of expediency and must rely on compulsion for its implementation. Christian morality by contrast is unconcerned with expe-

3 Political programmes are not largely matters of expediency. They nearly always express an idea or vision of the kind of society that is held to be desirable and this for most people is a matter of moral conviction.

2 Political programmes depend very heavily on consent both for their acceptance and their implementation. Hannah Arendt showed this to be so even in the case of a dictatorship. It is certainly true in our case of democracy.

3 Christian morality ought to be concerned with expediency as well as with goals and virtues. That is, moral decision making includes assessing the consequences of a proposed action and weighing the gain against the value against the loss in another.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD HARRIES,
Vicar of Fulham,
The Parish Church of All Saints,
10 St. Dunstons Village,
70 Fulham High Street, SW6.
November 6.

Sir, May I offer, in support of Donald Frith's letter in today's *Times* (November 6), the words of William Penn:
 "True godliness don't turn men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it, and excites their endeavours to mend it. . . ."
 Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY HUBBARD,
 16 Crescent Court,
 Crescent Road, N8.
 November 6.

Sir, "The reader desirous of being merry with Aquinas's angels may find them in Martinus Scriblerus, in Ch VII, who enquires if angels pass from one extreme to another without going through the middle? And if angels know things more clearly in a morning? How many angels can dance on the point of a very fine needle, without jostling one another?"

This, from Isaac, D'Israeli's *Curiosities of Literature*, under the heading Quodlibets, or Scholastic Disquisitions, may help to answer Mr Patrick McGrath's challenge to

mental offenders

From Mr S. R. Speller
Sir, The case of the mentally disordered man on whom Mr Justice Maise has just found no alternative but to pass a life sentence because he could not be admitted to a named psychiatric hospital by a reason of the threat of a strike by the nursing staff raises a number of issues, mental health legislation, the right of the individual to freedom, the right to draw attention to one thing only and that is the enormity of sentencing a mentally disordered person to life imprisonment and the stigma that goes with it, this for no other reason than that the offence cannot be found for him immediately in a suitable hospital.

Under § 50 of the Mental Health Act 1959 can be made only if the defendant is found to be insane. Arrangements have been made for the admission of the offender to a particular hospital if a hospital order is made, that hospital then being the place of his treatment. Otherwise the court has no option but to pass a sentence, usually of imprisonment and possibly imprisonment for life. This it has to do notwithstanding that the trial judge has received and accepted evidence of two medical practitioners, one of whom at least is a psychiatrist approved by the Secretary of State for making recommendations for admission to a mentally disordered persons hospital for treatment under the Act, that the defendant is so mentally disordered as to warrant his detention and, furthermore, is satisfied that the hospital is the best method of disposing of the case.

tion of having to pass an inappropriate sentence on such a mentally disordered person when there is no one immediately available to take him at the time he has to be dealt with, would be the amendment of s.60 of the 1959 Act so as to provide that where the trial judge is satisfied that a hospital order ought to be made but the patient is unwilling to remain in hospital, an order may be made without naming a hospital, the patient then being removed to a "place of safety" pending his placement in hospital by the Secretary of State. For this purpose the definition of "place of safety" could be as in s.135(6) of the Act but extended for the present purpose to include a prison. Provision would also be necessary for assurance that a successful patient was kept in prison.

Yours sincerely,
S. R. SPELLER,
4 Queen Anne's Grove,
Bush Hill Park,
Enfield, Middlesex.

From Mr Geoffrey L. Gray
Sir, It is to Agnes Newton Keith that
one must turn for the answer
Dr Russell Jones's question (Letter
November 1) as to why, of all the
regions in the Malay Peninsula and
region regarded as being "below the
wind", it is Sabah that is now
called.

For it was when writing in the
1930s about life in North Borneo
she was later to become even more
familiar than I was for her Japanese
prison-camp book, *Three Days at
Home*—that Agnes Newton Keith
genius led her to choose *La
Below the Wind* for the title of her
delightful first book and establish
the reputation that has since
become Sabah acceptance of idyl-
licity as the land "below the wind"
which now interests Dr Russ
Jones.

I am, Sir,
GEOFFREY L. GRAY,
Laluanum Cottages,
Yapton,
Arquede, Sussex.

From the Dean of Worcester Coll.
Sir, I am the Dean of Worces
College; and my cat is not a dog
Yours faithfully,
J. CAMPBELL,
Worcester College,
Oxford.
November 7.

Sir, Flint (the letter of Novem-
71) has asked me to assure y^r
readers that he has suffered
legal change of species or own
ship. He is too busy to write him
being engaged in keeping one
on the Dean's cat (*sic*) and
other open for Mr Levin should
come this way.

Yours sincerely,
H. G. PITT,
Worcester College,
Oxford.

Sir, Of course the cleverest cat more stupid than the least idle dog. Mr McGill (November 8) out to have strengthened his argument by mentioning monger dogs, pigs dogs that are dogs by fire-cats that are not and expect to taken out for a walk, house-pets dogs that lick themselves clean instead of being licked by the purring dogs that are seen and heard.

But Mr McGill deceives nobody by telling him in any manner, grinning like a Cheshire dog wait to see which way the dog jumps before he lets the dog out of bag and reveals himself for a red-tailed monger dog.

I honestly think he would be advised to let sleeping cats lie.

Yours faithfully,
STEWART C. TURMOUZIOS,
Saville Club,
69 Broad Street, W1.

Sir, Is there still no undercut
readers to champion?
Yours faithfully,
FRANK ROBERTS,
71 Grimsdells Lane,
Amersham,
Buckinghamshire.
November 10.

Fashion

by Prudence Glynn

The amazing Technicolor dreamcountry

Others were to be seen energetically drying their mother's long evening dresses by running briskly about the sand with the dresses streaming out behind them like banners. All of our luggage was open and the contents were being wrung out by obliging spectators with fish-belly hands, exclaiming delightedly on its quantity and quality and calling upon God to witness their zeal and efficiency. . . . From the river came the cheerful noise of the boatmen attempting to extract from my Father a heavy payment for rescuing the luggage they had spilled. . . . And the loud and equally cheerful voice of my Father entering the argument quite as wholeheartedly. . . . The sound of enjoyable expostulation floated down river over the water. Jokes about seamanship and navigation would be made. Loud laughter would fill the air. There would be no doubt that he would come off best and that everyone would come off happy. . . .

By one of those twists of fashion fate, Egypt is trying to lessen her economic dependence on cotton at precisely the moment that the designers who cater for the more privileged consumers are proclaiming it as the fibre. Cotton has been removed from the summer sphere and, laundering and warmth requirements notwithstanding, it is now being worn for Christmas. . . .

"natural" or "ethnic" to look a bit out of touch with modern household equipment. . . . Cotton represents 46 per cent of Egypt's exports value, though in both quantity and cash terms it is declining. Since it would seem to make economic sense to try to do more finishing of the cloth and more actual garment production at home to cut our expensive imports, I welcomed the chance offered by the Egyptian Government to go to the first ever fashion fair in Cairo last week and to see the industry in its national context. One of the first points to grasp is that Egypt cannot be as cheap as, say, Taiwan, or India or China as a manufacturing resource whether for textiles or garments. The actual quality of the cotton—beautiful long staple stuff which can be woven to the finest counts—is superior and more expensive than the shorter staple varieties available elsewhere. Then, Egypt rightly is trying to improve living standards for its people at the same time as productivity per worker could be higher. . . .

The export manager of one large mill I spoke to told me that, though his firm produces underwear as well as textiles, they do very little business with England, first because they find it hard to match prices, and also because other countries such as Portugal have a much more sophisticated packaging and presentation of goods at the same time as being cheaper. However there seems a great willingness to extend operations, if possible. A large trade delegation is going to America by the way, to see what can be done to further exports there. The American presence, like that of the French, is notable. . . .

Of the exhibitors at the fair I liked the Provencal prints by Demery of France, which are on sale at Brother Sun in London's Fulham Road, high fashion shoes by Donval who, the French being as usual well organized, already sell to Marks and Spencer and to Elliot's from their Britanny factory. There were some magnificent reptile handbags and desk sets by Marius Patte, which sell in England at Asprey, Dunhill, and they are hoping, at Harrods. Having been



Modern designers can add little or nothing to the elegance of ancient Egypt. With their flat, jeweled yokes and brilliantly printed and pleated sheer dresses, the ladies on the left might be Zandra Rhodes customers, or parons of Yuki, whose mastery of seductive draping in revealing materials is paramount. The ladies on the right go topless in a costume more bare than any yet devised by Rudi Gernreich and highly topical after the recent Paris collections. And since it has been suggested that by the year 2000 we shall all be bald, and the sexual focus will be the skin, make a note of those ravishing fun wigs and the elaborate face and body makeup. . . .

impressed by the Turks on other occasions I was interested to see their most famous designer, Zuhair Yorgancioglu, who specializes in magnificent antique embroideries and very pretty tradition-inspired dresses for the German market in quantities of 65,000 per month. They also seem in some exotic Turkish way to make pottery on the side. Most women in Egypt either make or have made their clothes, though courtesiers are "becoming very expensive" so that there must be a market for both national and, if

At the other end of the scale is Sunbank, an enormous vertical organization spinning and knitting 40,000,000 metres of cloth per year, and producing, at about five dollars a throw, the most dreadful flowy dresses for the German market in quantities of 65,000 per month. They also seem in some exotic Turkish way to make pottery on the side. Most women in Egypt either make or have made their clothes, though courtesiers are "becoming very expensive" so that there must be a market for both national and, if

sufficiently cheap, imported ready to wear, besides, perhaps, a great chance for designers to work in an emerging industry? Sabrina is probably the best known Egyptian designer, but she relies heavily on the past—I liked her ornate galleys in the silver-plated cotton net which is also made up at Karnassa, though what I bought was a white, man's robe (the women's are a funny shape) in the finest quality cotton up at Luxor. . . .

ing Export Council had mounted a presence which, considering that they had been told that imports from Britain were banned and only the ban was lifted—duties remain immense—after they had turned away a number of buyers—was in great heart. The range shown by Gimmick and by The Hardware Clothing Co proved yet again that for a combination of price, originality, high style and attractiveness, plus perfectly adequate quality, plus smashing knitwear, we can match the world and bear most of it. Both the Italian and French exhibitors looked drab and mummy beside our mass market produce. Furthermore, the British were making proper use of the fair as a trading post. One had been upstairs to see the cheap Turks (wisely taking his own patterns) and downstairs to see the Egyptian textile firms "I think I've ended up the biggest buyer here," he confided, and he is to be congratulated. . . .

How to preserve the atmosphere of places which, above all, the creations of religious faith and yet provide badly needed money from the tourist trade is one of the classic problems of a country such as Egypt. The Governor of Qena, the region which includes Karnak, the Valley of Kings and some of the richest antiquities told me that transport, accommodation, and services—telephone, telegraph etc are the essentials which must be provided; sometimes there are a thousand tourists without beds in one night. I had observed that when the electric current diminishes the phone does not ring. What about preserving the atmosphere? The government is only too aware of this, he said, as it is aware of the need to see industrial developments where they will not ruin the landscape, but in fact there are a great many more tombs which have not even been opened yet and provided the organization is sorted out there is still a big untapped capacity. . . .

If I were to add a characteristic for Egyptians to those supplied by my current Egyptian designer, it is impossible to look on the miraculous architectural remains of Egypt—just as it is on the great cathedrals of Europe—without meditating whether anything created with faith must not have some extra spirit or purpose, ordinary design. However, in Egypt that faith can still be found. . . .

"Of course we must have peace" the student said to me, "but it must be peace with dignity. I would like willingly for my country to have this; after all, I shall live a thousand years hence." . . .

If I had to record one disappointment, it would be the Sphinx. I do quite realize that it must have

had a complicated love life and was notoriously short on conversation (one can just imagine similarly placed creatures, harpies and centaurs and the Hydra and even perhaps the mermaid stuffing their feet and tails at its padding approach and saying to each other "Here comes old Sphinx again, with that dreadful riddle!") but it fails to grip me, that whether because Oedipus got the answer right or Napoleon's artillery blew its nose off it is not for me to say. . . .

Will my legs ever be the same again after riding on a camel and sprinting up the catwalk inside a pyramid all in the space of an hour? (The Australians, stationed in Cairo before Gallipoli used to race each other up and down the outside, and had to be deflected from this enterprise after ten of them had broken their necks.) One can learn a lot about elegance from camels. Mine folded his faded legs with exquisite precision for me to get on, then every time I told me) that I was a superb horsewoman the driver let go the rope and I set off at a smart clip, camel burping disgracefully, in the general direction of Alexandria. What a fascinating beast he was, with his ugly mobile velvety mane like a lecherous man. I would have liked to give him a good home and a life supply of Bisodol, but in fact something in his eye deterred me from so much as a pat. . . .

As for my heart, all one can say is that Egypt is so beautiful and, if one suffers from what Mrs Napier so well describes as the Anglo-Saxon vice of wanting to put things right and believing that with a little brisk common sense this can be achieved once and for all, so poignant, that it transmits every little evil told about it. Rigid with vertigo, I got a peep of the pyramids from the penultimate platform of the minaret of the mosque of Ibn Tuloun, whose steps are wide enough for a horse to go up—one can only hope it did not suffer from the same affliction. Enthrilled, I dreamed during the Son et Lumiere scripted, accompanied and spoken by the Comedie Francaise (more French presence) at Karnak. The elegance and vitality of the decorations on walls and stones and obelisks is amazing. How chic are the ladies in their transparent pantaloons under transparent skirts, with their bikini tops and intricate wigs and enamelled finger nails and brave jewelry. How virile the men, hunting and administering and fighting and labouring in their kilts and pancheros, with the double striped feather of authority, heaved surprisingly, marvellously jewelled on their muscly bare chests and arms. . . .

Law Report November 10 1975

Privy Council

No immunity for state ship engaged in trading

The Philippine Admiral

Before Lord Cross of Chelsea, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, Lord Salmon, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton and Sir Thaddeus McCarthy (Opinion delivered November 6)

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, declining to follow *The Porto Alexandre* (1920) P 30, and adopting the "restrictive" theory of sovereign immunity, held that a state-owned merchant ship engaged in ordinary trade is not entitled to immunity. . . .

Their Lordships dismissed an appeal by the Government of the Philippine Republic, the owners of the Philippine Admiral, from a decision of the Full Court of the Supreme Court of Hong Kong (Mr Justice Huggins, Mr Justice McMillin and Mr Justice Leonard) reversing an order of Chief Justice Briggs setting aside writs in rem issued by the respondents on the ground that the ship was entitled to sovereign immunity. . . .

Mr T. H. Bingham, QC, and Mr David Sullivan for the appellants; Mr Anthony Evans, QC, and Mr Ian Hunter for the respondents; Waller Shipping, Hong Kong Ltd and Telfair Shipping Corporation. LORD CROSS said that the Philippine Admiral had been provided to the Philippine Republic as part of the reparations made by Japan for damage done to Philippine property during the Second World War. Under an agreement for its conditional sale made with the Philippine Reparations Commission, an agency of the government which at all material times was the owner of the ship, the Liberation Steamship Company operated her as a merchant vessel earning freight by carrying cargo. . . .

In 1972 the ship was being repaired in Hong Kong. Liberation chartered her to Telfair, and a dispute arose over payment for certain repairs. Liberation purported to cancel the charter party and Telfair issued a writ in rem against the ship for damages for breach. Waller, brokers and shipping agents in Hong Kong, also issued writs in rem for goods supplied and disbursements made. The ship was arrested and expense was incurred by the bailiff in maintaining her. . . .

Liberation entered appearances as "owners" but took no steps to procure the ship's release. The Registrar of the Supreme Court of Hong Kong obtained an order that the ship be appraised and sold and the proceeds paid into court. On an application by the Philippine Government claiming sovereign immunity for the ship Chief Justice Briggs set aside the writs and all subsequent proceedings. The full court reversed the decision and the Philippine Government appealed. . . .

The Board had to consider whether the ship was entitled to sovereign immunity even though she was being used for ordinary commercial purposes, and if not, whether she ought nevertheless to enjoy immunity because she could not properly be regarded as a mere trading ship. . . .

Chief Justice Marshall decreed in *The Schooner Exchange* (1821) 2 Cranch 116 that a vessel of war of a foreign state with which the United States was at peace and which the government allowed to enter its harbours was exempt from the jurisdiction of its courts. It was submitted in argument that if a sovereign engaged in trade he would enjoy no immunity in respect of his trading operations. The question was left open. . . .

King of the Belgians which carried mail and passengers, that it was not a trading vessel, and that it was entitled to immunity. In their Lordships' opinion that judgment was wrong in law. A foreign sovereign could not be sued in personam and (b) that an action in rem could not be brought against his ship if she was being used substantially for public purposes, as was the *Parlement Belge*. But the question whether a state-owned vessel used wholly or substantially for trading was left open. . . .

The former proposition had been reaffirmed in many subsequent cases. His Lordship reviewed the authorities relevant to the second proposition including *The Porto Alexandre*, which was the last authority on the subject. The *Porto Alexandre* was the property of the Portuguese Government and was used by it in ordinary trading voyages earning freight. An action in rem was brought against her in respect of salvage services and the Court of Appeal reluctantly held that it was bound by the *Parlement Belge* and the vessel was entitled to immunity. . . .

In 1926 the United Kingdom was a signatory to an international convention which stated that state-owned ships engaged in trade and the state operating them were to be treated as private vessels. The Convention had not been signed by the United Kingdom. His Lordship then analysed *The Cristina* (1938) AC 483 and said that it was clear that the question whether a state-owned ship could claim immunity in an action in rem against a ship employed by it solely for trading was never in issue. The decision in *The Porto Alexandre* was right. Lord Wright concurred, but Lord Macmillan expressed doubt while Lord Thankerton and Lord Macmillan reserved their opinions. . . .

There was no doubt that since the Second World War there had been a movement away from the absolute theory of sovereign immunity championed by Lord Atkin and Lord Wright towards a more restrictive theory which sought to draw a distinction between acts of a state which were done jure imperii and those done jure gestionis. That restrictive theory accorded the foreign state no immunity either in actions in personam or in actions in rem in respect of transactions falling under the second head. . . .

His Lordship drew attention to the so-called "Tate letter" of 1922 written by the legal adviser of the State Department notifying the acting Attorney General of the United States of change in the policy of the Department of State with regard to the granting of sovereign immunity to foreign governments. Counsel had not suggested that their Lordships should seek the help of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in deciding the instant appeal by ascertaining what theory of sovereign immunity it favoured. It could be said, however, that if the courts were to consult the Executive on such questions, then what might begin as guidance on principles might end in cases being decided irrespective of any principle and in accordance only with political expediency. . . .

ordinary trading transactions. (4) The Convention and all Convention countries the state could be sued in its own courts on commercial contracts and there was no reason why a foreign state should not be equally liable to be sued. There was no clear cut dividing line between acts done jure imperii and acts done jure gestionis. Difficult border-line cases might arise, but similar difficulties arose under the absolute theory because a court might have to decide whether a defendant was so closely connected with the state as to make the action one in substance against the state itself. . . .

The only reason for following *The Porto Alexandre* was that to apply the restrictive theory to actions in rem while leaving actions in personam to be governed by the absolute theory would produce an illogical result. The rule that no action in personam could be brought against a foreign sovereign state on a commercial contract had been regularly accepted by the Court of Appeal and was unlikely to be changed. Their Lordships were not prepared to accept the argument that they should not tamper with the law by applying the restrictive theory to actions in rem but that they should leave it to

Court of Appeal

Discretion not ousted by agreement

Brockwell v Brockwell

Before Lord Justice Stamp, Lord Justice Ormrod and Sir John Pennycuik (Judgments delivered November 5)

No agreement between spouses can deprive the court of the discretion under the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1973, to award a lump sum. Accordingly, the Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by a wife who had agreed to relinquish any claim against the matrimonial home, the husband's only substantial asset, for the dismissal of her claim for a lump sum payment. . . .

Mr Bruce Holroyd Pearce, QC, and Mr Gordon Bishop for the wife, Mrs Rosemary Carole Brockwell; Mr Philip Owen, QC, and Miss Hilary Heilbron for the husband, Mr Leonard Brockwell. . . .

LORD JUSTICE STAMP said that the matrimonial home was purchased in 1967 in the joint names of husband and wife. It was their only substantial asset. The equity was worth about £10,000. . . .

In 1972 the wife asked the husband for a divorce, and because he feared that he might lose his home he agreed to petition straightaway for divorce on the ground of the wife's adultery and not to seek costs on the wife agreeing to relinquish all claim to the house. After a short delay he obtained a decree. Immediately it included an order for costs, which he undertook not to enforce. . . .

The wife, however, was unwilling to transfer her interest in the house and applied for an order under section 17 of the Married Women's Property Act, 1882. She also applied under sections 23 and 24 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1973, for a lump sum order and a transfer of property order. . . .

Cohen, at Guildford County Court, held that the wife's agreement to give up her share in the house was enforceable against her and dismissed her

the Government in ratifying the 1926 Convention and all Convention countries on state immunity of 1973, and introduce the legislation necessary to make them part of our law. They thought the restrictive theory more consonant with justice, were not deterred by the thought of any resulting anomaly, and proposed not to follow *The Porto Alexandre*. . . .

Their Lordships thought that the Philippine Admiral could properly be regarded as a trading vessel. She had been operated as an ordinary merchant ship and the fact that Liberation was subject to the provisions of the reparations law of the Philippines and to the terms of its contract with the Reparations Commission made no difference for the purposes of the doctrine of sovereign immunity. If a court were faced with a claim to sovereign immunity for a trading vessel based on an alleged intention to use her in the future for some different and undoubtedly public purpose, the questions involved would be difficult but were not necessary to be resolved in the instant case. . . .

Their Lordships were of the opinion that the appeal should be dismissed and would advise Her Majesty accordingly. . . .

Solicitors: Maxwell, Bailey & Co; Holman, Fenwick & Willan.



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First and dating from the fifth century BC made £13,200. The Galerie Koller in Zurich

0,000 to \$35,000) or £14,904. A New York carved mahogany card table made. \$28,000 (estimate \$5,000 to \$25,000) or £13,462. \$2,400 jewelry: Phillips's first sale of jewelry in Geneva on Sunday was remarkably successful.

A used block of six of the 1840 blue with the figure 1 in the Maltese Cross cancellations, went for £1200, despite faults, and £875 was paid for an unused strip of three 1d black, plate six, which had been valued at up to £400.

The nuclear batteries are tested internationally agreed safety standards, in order to ensure

Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

turned to Germany in 1946 and de-Nazification court acknowledged his assistance in the struggle against Hitler. He later wrote several books on his experiences with the Nazi party.

Correction
Professor John Wilfrid Innett, FRS, whose obituary appeared in *The Times* yesterday, married, in 1947, Rae Ellen Libgott.

... F. Nicholas, ...

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Stock Exchange Prices

Prices drift lower

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Nov 3. Dealings End Nov 14. § Contango Day, Nov 17. Settlement Day, Nov 21.
 § Forward bargains are per mitted on two previous days.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Who says money can't buy happiness?

Don Zilio. World's most exquisite cream sherry.

rise in fuel and raw material costs delivers fresh blow to industry

Westlake, an industry suffered a during October as raw materials and the largest monthly month.

to figures pub- by the Depart- industry there was a per cent in these of manufacturing the past three have risen at an of about 37 per

the quadrupling of e in the winter of industry's raw ill risen, so fast costs were, again, not accounting for irds of the increase.

industry began to effects of the new t increase in the of crude oil an the producer coun- enna the previous ever, the continuing value of the pound xchanges and fresh primary food pro- duced up manufac- bills.

the rise in oil is not 2 factor, the present gives considerable acern.

ning fall in the

pound's value and an upswing of world prices of some primary and semi-manufactured goods would seem to be putting a new burden on industry even without the oil price rise. When the latest oil increase is excluded, raw materials and fuels still appear to have risen at an annual rate of more than 30 per cent; over the last three months, compared with under 20 per cent in the previous three months.

If this trend continues it could seriously undermine the Government's anti-inflation programme. How much the higher input costs will ultimately influence wholesale and retail prices depends on industry's capacity to absorb such increases. But, in the present state of manufacturers' finances it can be safely assumed that most of the increases will have to be passed on to the consumer.

Furthermore, according to the Department of Industry, there are now signs that the recent decline in the prices of semi-manufactured goods has come to an end. This category covers a wide variety of products including steel, chemicals, plastics and yarns in an unfinished form.

There was also an increase in gas tariffs last month as well as a rise in the prices of fish, potatoes, home grown cereals and imported wheat. One hopeful sign, however, is that the

rise in the cost of primary food products appears to have eased from the very high level which prevailed in recent months.

Separate figures published yesterday for wholesale prices: October also provide the Government with some small comfort. Factory-gate prices of all manufactured goods rose by 1.2 per cent during the month, and although this was a greater increase than during the previous two months, the broad underlying trend would still appear downwards at present.

In fact, the annual rate of increase in wholesale prices in the August-October period was around 12.4 per cent, compared with 21.5 per cent in the previous three months. But this broadly reflects the lower costs of commodities after the end of the 1972-74 boom, and also the slower rate of increase in labour costs.

Wholesale prices could again begin to rise sharply when the current increase in raw materials and fuel bills begins to work through.

The effect on prices in the high street could begin to be felt by about next spring, at a time when average earnings will in any case be rising noticeably slower than the retail price index. This could serve to increase trade union antagonism towards the Government's 5.6-week pay rise limit.

WHOLESALE PRICES

The following are the indices (1970=100) of wholesale prices of manufactured goods and of basic materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry, released by the Department of Industry yesterday. The figures are not seasonally adjusted, exclude purchase tax, but include revenue duties.

| | Output Price (base sales) | Price of materials and fuel |
|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1973 Q1 | 119.1 | 128.0 |
| Q2 | 120.1 | 133.3 |
| Q3 | 124.2 | 150.9 |
| Q4 | 128.1 | 167.8 |
| 1974 Q1 | 138.2 | 212.5 |
| Q2 | 148.9 | 213.7 |
| Q3 | 156.1 | 212.9 |
| Q4 | 164.9 | 222.1 |
| 1975 Q1 | 178.0 | 222.8 |
| Q2 | 183.3 | 238.2 |
| Q3 | 182.2 | 220.1 |
| October | 184.8 | 223.8 |
| November | 187.6 | 222.5 |
| 1975 | 173.0 | 222.1 |
| January | 173.9 | 218.8 |
| February | 173.2 | 219.9 |
| March | 182.5 | 222.9 |
| April | 187.3 | 228.2 |
| May | 189.0 | 227.7 |
| June | 191.7 | 233.2 |
| July | 182.5 | 241.4 |
| August | 185.0 | 243.0 |
| September | 187.4 | 252.3 |
| October | 187.4 | 252.3 |
| Provisional | | |

Oil groups pull out of Abu Dhabi gas scheme

From Ann Fyfe, Dubai, Nov 10

According to a report in the official Arabic-language newspaper today the Abu Dhabi Petroleum Company, which BP, Shell and Compagnie Française des Pétroles are a major remaining foreign shareholders, has decided to pull out of the \$1,200m (about £580m) gas utilization schemes which are to be constructed at ADPC's three onshore oil fields.

The report said that the foreign companies were not willing to participate to the extent of 40 per cent in the financing of the project as was originally the plan.

Abu Dhabi's national oil company will now proceed with the scheme on a 100 per cent ownership basis, and a law has been drafted specifying that 100 per cent of the natural gas produced at the fields belongs to the state.

The scheme involves the collection of gases currently flared at each of the Bab, Bu Hasa and Asab fields and the production from a common plant of five million tonnes a year of natural gas liquids, plus about two million tonnes a year of liquefied petroleum gas and associated products for export.

As all gases produced at the marine oilfields will be accounted for by the Des Island liquefaction plant, the onshore project will put an end to nearly all flaring.

Studies have already been prepared in full for ADPC equipment ordered: the state oil company is said by the report to be offering approximately \$48m in compensation and to be inviting bids from international companies for the completion of the scheme.

Shahk Mami Al-Otaiba, the United Arab Emirates' oil minister, has said repeatedly in recent months that the UAE was not seeking 100 per cent control of its oil and 40 per cent of which is sold in foreign hands—and the capital investment still required for projects such as this is widely believed to be the reason for his attitude.

Chrysler UK chiefs will not attend today's meeting with unions

By Clifford Webb

Chrysler UK revealed last night that neither Mr Gilbert Hunt, chairman, nor Mr Don Lander, managing director, will attend today's meeting with national and local union officials despite the unions' request to talk to management at the highest level.

The company will be represented by Mr Peter Griffiths, newly promoted deputy managing director and industrial relations and personnel chief.

A company spokesman said last night: "This meeting is taking place at the request of the unions. But we have made it plain that we are not in a position to reveal further details of last week's discussions between Mr John Riccardo (chairman of Chrysler Corporation of America), Mr Wilson and other ministers."

"Both sides have pledged themselves to treat this information as confidential for the time being."

Despite the apparent ban on further information, union leaders and senior shop stewards representing Chrysler's 27,000 employees will press for a fuller statement on the extent of the crisis facing the company.

Mr Grenville Hawley, automotive group secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, will be at today's meeting.

He said last night: "We were expecting to meet Mr Hunt and Mr Lander because someone at the top must do something positive to allay all the rumours which are creating such a lack of confidence in the company that there will soon be nothing to save."

"There is a great deal the company can tell us about their present position without revealing anything of the confidential talks with the Government."

Before he meets the company Mr Hawley will be given a last-minute briefing by his Coventry officials and shop stewards.

The other major motor union, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, will be represented by Mr Bob Wright, national executive member responsible for the Midlands.

The unions will be pressing for an assurance that Chrysler of America has not already decided to break up its United Kingdom subsidiary. Employees' fears about this have been fed by a report in a Midland newspaper which quotes an official of the American Auto Workers' Union as saying by telephone from Detroit: "I personally believe that Chrysler has already made that decision and that it will turn its back on Britain in three or four weeks."

Borrowing costs of US cities soaring

From Frank Vogel, Washington, Nov 10

State and local governments in the United States have seen their borrowing costs rise steeply in recent months as a direct result of the erosion of investor confidence produced by the New York financial crisis.

Also, a large number of municipalities have been forced to abandon planned bond and note flotations because of the upheaval in the markets.

These are among the main findings of a study on the impact of the New York crisis which has been conducted on a state by state basis by the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Washington. The study included a survey of 2,524 municipal bonds issued this year.

Looking ahead to the 12 months starting in the third quarter of this year, it is estimated that the increased lifetime bond costs for municipal borrowers, resulting from the New York crisis, total between \$1,100m (about £532m) and \$1,800m.

The cost to municipal borrowers for short-term notes has been increased for this period by between \$200m and \$300m.

The study pointed out that the crisis, which started with the default by New York's Urban Development Corporation in the spring, has forced the cancellation or postponement of more than \$1,200m in bond offerings by state and local governments since May.

Further, it showed that the New York crisis had the most severe impact on large municipal borrowers in the general New York geographic area.

As a result, a wide difference has taken place in the cost of borrowing. Bond interest rates, for example, have risen from a small 0.08 per cent for some top quality issues well away from New York to 0.55 per cent for those still able to raise funds, but with only moderate ratings.

The study illustrated the differentials by noting that under present conditions, for example, Pennsylvania borrowers could end up paying an added \$99.3m in interest, assuming continuation of its annual new issue volume of \$1,500m of bonds.

On the other hand North Dakota and Montana, which have largely been spared from the consequences of New York's troubles, could face added borrowing costs of less than \$500,000 for a year's borrowing of \$20m to \$30m.

The authors of the study note that their figures are probably conservative and that, for example, the volume of cancelled bond issues, at about \$1,200m, only consists of publicly announced flotations.

When cancellation of not officially announced bond issues were included, the figure probably exceeded \$2,000m.

Further, the report contained the ominous warning: "The evidence suggests that the continued erosion of credit quality could result in a prolonged withholding of capital from those segments of the municipal market that are perceived to be the most risky."

The danger of a series of municipal defaults, should New York go bankrupt, is clearly spelled out.

It's deny guard each

Rowley

of London, the market, last night, it was the Commit- had been asked to merger bond, the Assurance and the eguard Assurance

ches of this sort, ade, a spokesman aid last night. Sir ce, chairman of, also denied last his company had any approaches on the Lifeguard anyone else."

not been asked to the company or to into it, Sir Henry ver, he added that would be prepared such a proposal, if

Assurance, which n 1964 as a vehicle long term life un- available to other- uthers who took stopped taking on last week after with the Depart-

was set up in writing agents at ally in concern single-premium an Lifeguard, a bigger capital iler underwriting eguard.

ies have Lloyd's r, is chairman of it has been sug- ere is a certain not altogether y between the

EEC steel investment falls below forecast

By Peter Hill, Industrial Correspondent

New investment by Europe's iron and steel industry this year is almost certain to be below forecasts. But steel capacity should increase to 213 million tonnes if expenditure intentions are realised during the next three years.

According to a still unpublished survey prepared by the European Commission, the industry spent nearly 2,800 million units of account (about £1,650m) last year. The forecast level this year is more than 3,000 million units of account (about £1,250m).

But the survey noted that the high level of spending last year had not been realized in terms of increased production because of the recession.

Commenting on investment levels this year, the study said that it appeared that some investment projects had been shelved or reduced in scale in view of the uncertainties over trends in demand for steel, persistent inflation, exchange rate instability and difficulties on the markets for long-term capital.

The Commission noted: "In these conditions, it is possible that some steel enterprises may be led to further possible revisions of their projects in 1975 and 1976."

On the basis of forecast steel production, however, the Commission said that community steel production cap-

£400m 'tap' stock issue exhausted

By Tim Candon

A small flurry of buying early yesterday morning was sufficient to exhaust the Treasury 9 per cent 1978 "B" short-dated "tap" stock issue, which was announced in September, amounted to £400m.

This stock was assigned to be attractive to the banks, which at present have excess liquidity.

Sales of the stock contributed to the reduction in the reserve asset ratios in October and have therefore reduced the chances of an explosion of lending in the next few months.

The reserve asset ratio of the banking system, which stood at 16.0 per cent on September 17, had been reduced to 15.7 per cent by October 15, and subsequent sales may have reduced it further.

The accepting houses, which had a ratio of 20.3 per cent in September, are believed to have been particularly interested in the stock.

Exhaustion of the short-dated "B" stock came within the buying of gilt yesterday, but prices rose only slightly because the government broker met demand with large official sales of stock.

Dealers estimated that between £200m and £250m of re-maturing "tap" stocks were sold, a much brisker pace than typical in the last few weeks when sales have hovered around £5m or £10m a day.

A replacement short-dated "tap" in the 1976-78 area is expected to be announced soon.

Lucas profits rise from £17m to £32m

After the strong recovery in its first half profits, Lucas Industries has produced good growth in the second half of its latest financial year to give an increase in full year pre-tax profits from £17.6m to £32.3m.

In part this reflects recovery from the slump of the share, but day week, which Lucas estimated had cost its 1973/74 profits some £9m. But the group also points to a strong performance by its diesel equipment operations.

Profits from the home subsidiary companies rose from £33.7m to £40.8m, and trading profits from £9.5m to £24.2m. Sales by overseas subsidiaries increased to £161m from £115m, and trading profits to £14.4m from £9.5m.

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Lloyds Industries and Holt seek merger

By Desmond Quigley

Proposals to create what is claimed to be "the largest car-care organization in Europe" by merging Holt Products and Lloyds Industries International into a new company were announced yesterday.

If the plans are accepted, Holt shareholders would receive 62 per cent of the equity in the new company—possibly to be called Holt Lloyds International—although Lloyds directors would dominate the new board.

Such a scheme would mark the final eclipse of the Holt family in the business, and the emergence of Mr Tom Heywood, chairman and managing director of Lloyds, who has been seeking the merger for some years.

It is proposed that Lloyds shareholders will get a straight one-for-one share swap in the new company, while Holt shareholders would get seven shares for every 10 existing ones.

This would give Holt 62 per cent of the equity of the new company in return for contributing 68 per cent of combined assets, and around 55 per cent of the combined earnings.

Mr Heywood would become chairman and chief executive of the new company, while Mr John Parkin, chairman and managing director of Holt, would join the new board before leaving early next year to take up other business interests in the Far East. Of the other directors four would be from Holt and five from Lloyds.

Financial Editor, page 19

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company which ere cash crisis id to be rescued e injecting new y for a major pty day appointed Jones as the director.

s is director in industrial division Trading. Both declined yesterday his salary.

Je Ferranti, the nan, who relinqu- ing director- the cash inje- it is listed in accounts for ing £26,000 a

oil at

10.—United production has west level in vertice Petro- ported today, ntinueing, the spite a sharp can explora- oil and gas

Forties Field petrol on sale from Monday

By Roger Vielvoys, Energy Correspondent

Petrol using oil from British Petroleum's Forties Field in the North Sea will be on sale in Scotland on Monday.

BP's Grangemouth refinery began processing North Sea crude which had been pumped from the onshore landing terminal at Cruden Bay, Aberdeenshire.

The light, high quality North Sea oil is blended with heavier imported crudes, and probably between a third and a quarter of the petrol going on sale next week will be based on British oil.

BP is to build up stocks of petrol blending facilities all this week to ensure continuity of supply. For the motorist the fuel will be identical to that

produced entirely from imported oils.

The revised refining schedule also produces quantities of diesel oil, kerosene and gas oils using Forties oil. These products will also be on sale from next week.

Initially, sales of North Sea blended oil products will be confined to the area of Scotland served by the Grangemouth refinery. However, BP will be the only company selling products made from North Sea crude.

BP's Grangemouth refinery is the only large oil processing unit in Scotland and many other companies buy finished products and sell them under their own marketing brands.

Some of the 43,000 barrels of oil a day piped ashore from

Forties is being fed into storage tanks at the Dalmeny terminal on the Firth of Forth which feeds an export jetty at Hound Point.

There are no plans to export any Forties crude within the next month, but British oil should be finding its way into BP's north European network early next year.

Once the oil flow from Forties has built up to over 100,000 barrels a day, tankers from Hound Point will also deliver cargoes to BP's refinery at the Isle of Grain in Kent and later, to the refinery at Landarby in south Wales.

Brent "Jacket", Redpath Dorman Long has substantially completed the construction of the 495ft high steel jacket for the Shell/Eso Brent oilfield. But

construction work is severely behind schedule and has already missed the best weather conditions needed to float out and install the structure.

RDL said the jacket will now be floated out at the earliest possible date in the Spring from the company's construction yard at Methil in Fife.

Shell/Eso are using the winter months to order additional work which will reduce the time required for the installation and commissioning of the platform.

Part of this work involves modification to the tops of the pile guides. These are to be opened, which will ease the task of the floating crane to feed-in longer 6ft diameter pipes, reducing welding work during installation.

Central bankers assess effect of New York crisis

Basle, Nov 10.—European central bankers and monetary officials from the United States and Japan today informally discussed problems arising from New York City's financial crisis.

Sources said the central bankers were seeking to assess the impact a New York City collapse would have on financial markets. Such an assessment indicated that the bankers also considered the necessity for measures to maintain orderly trading in the event of New York's collapse.

The central bankers are in Basel for the regular monthly meeting of the Bank for International Settlements tomorrow. As is traditional, they use the opportunity to meet informally a day earlier to discuss outstanding monetary issues.

Today the bankers also discussed issues relating to the planned sale of gold by the International Monetary Fund and the Swiss efforts to join the float of European currencies, the snake.—AP-Dow Jones

How the markets moved

| Rises | Falls |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alroyd & Smith 7p to 183p | BP 5p to 585p |
| Beecham 2p to 320p | Distillers 2p to 124p |
| Cescon 30p to 240p | Dunlop 7p to 221p |
| Cone Tex & Ltd 15p to 430p | Groot 7p to 145p |
| Elect & Ind Secs 7p to 42p | Ldn Utd Inv 5p to 57p |
| Grippe 6p to 65p | MTD (Mangula) 5p to 75p |
| Lucas Ind 9p to 158p | |

The Times index: 154.09 - 0.55
The FT index: 367.4 - 1.9

| THE POUND | Bank buys | Bank sells |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| Australia \$ | 1.68 | 1.62 |
| Austria Sch | 38.50 | 36.50 |
| Belgium Fr | 84.25 | 81.25 |
| Canada \$ | 12.74 | 12.30 |
| Denmark Kr | 12.70 | 12.30 |
| Finland Mk | 8.15 | 7.90 |
| France Fr | 9.25 | 8.95 |
| Germany DM | 5.45 | 5.25 |
| Greece Dr | 77.00 | 72.00 |
| Hongkong \$ | 10.55 | 10.15 |
| Italy L. | 150.00 | 140.00 |
| Japan Yn | 650.00 | 625.00 |
| Netherlands Gld | 5.55 | 5.35 |
| Norway Kr | 11.60 | 11.25 |
| Portugal Esc | 60.00 | 58.00 |
| S Africa Rd | 1.79 | 1.67 |
| Spain Pes | 127.00 | 121.50 |
| Sweden Kr | 9.25 | 8.95 |
| Switzerland Fr | 6.55 | 6.35 |
| US \$ | 2.11 | 2.06 |
| Yugoslavia Dnr | 42.50 | 39.00 |

Commodities: Ranters' index was at 1144.2 (previous 1149.5). Equities fell away as profit taking eroded a strong start. Gilt-edged securities saw some good buying.

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The year ahead.

The financial year 1974/5 was a good one for Johnson & Firth Brown, makers of special steels, wire and engineering products. Pre-tax profits were a best-ever £8.3 million, some 15% ahead of last year. The directors are recommending the maximum permissible increase in dividend.

The company's Chairman, Mr. J. M. Clay, has this to say about the year ahead in his statement to shareholders.

"We believe that the markets which our industrial divisions serve are of fundamental international importance and, that by continuing to invest to maintain our technological pre-eminence and the efficiency of our production processes, we shall continue to grow and prosper in the long term.

"During the current year, JFB cannot avoid the effects of the world recession. Accordingly, it is most unlikely that profits will match those of last year. Nevertheless, I believe that the current year will demonstrate the underlying strength of your group and that we shall emerge from the difficult period ahead well placed for further progress."

We'd like you to have the full story of Johnson & Firth Brown's progress last year. For copies of the 1974/5 Report and Accounts, write to the Secretary, Smithfield House, Blunk Street, Sheffield S1 2AU.

Johnson & Firth Brown Limited

Manufacturers of special steels, wire and engineering products.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Lucas finds growth in the recession

The Government doubtless delving its claws on the repercussions of a Chrysler town, the message from major components manufacturers appears to be that any gains arising from such a town would be of only short-term importance. The position is that the loss of a business would indeed be a considerable short-term loss on the workload of two but that last business over a period of time would be made up from sources with little net impact on the group's financial position.



Mr. W. A. de Vries, chairman of Lucas, plans for expansion and modernization.

In the meantime, £32.4m prior to the year to end July Lucas some £4m over the end of analysts' expectations with the second half in £19.2m (after providing £2.5m for redundancy against £1.4m—£1.5m adding back estimated profits lost during the year).

bad going against the round of motor trade and here Lucas to three main factors, the diesel engine and of business—now around a more of turnover and of profits—has buoyant throughout the world at home and overseas.

Lucas has fared less than it might have in the motor component thanks to relative stability of the c.v. and a particularly good year for Chrysler as well as success such as new Ford Escort. Third, has benefited from its sales in pushing up its market in Europe, with European taking in an acquisition by some 75 per cent.

the current year, Lucas pattern remaining much the same. The diesel companies expected to make further gains and the European market is showing signs of recovery.

Little overall improvement in the United Kingdom motor component—though exports are good—but the industrial, which raised its trade-off from £923,000 to last year, is expected to further improvement and aircraft division, which in profits of only 10 on sales of £71m, is expected to improve to 20.

short, the medium-term looks good enough to expect that the shares, on a £6.7 at 156p, perform at as well as the market over coming months. True, a 5.2 per cent (after a 10 per cent dividend) is not nothing special, but it leaves more than 10 per cent of over at a time when capital plans to total around £68m, and total net debt from £121m to £121m.

switch of marketing of the declining home into exports is paying. Interim export sales ahead; rather more

than the £12.8m rise in group total turnover, which illustrates the important decline in the United Kingdom.

That decline has almost certainly accelerated in the second half, against which though, export sales of Coles Cranes, excavators, bridges and formwork (shuttering) will have gone ahead more strongly. Acrow's concentration on the relatively prosperous Opec countries appears to be a good strategy in the sense that it is producing a growing flow of orders.

So, at a time when many United Kingdom engineering companies are showing falls in sales and profits, Acrow has raised interim profits by 30 per cent and that rate of improvement can probably be maintained in the second half to produce profits for the year of around £8m against £6.27m.

Acrow is hardly typical either in embarking now on £2m expansion and modernization programme at five factories to boost output over the next couple of years. That will be financed from cash flow (improved now by a reduction in stocks) and by borrowings, although the company is already highly geared.

The "A" shares at 112p and the ordinary at 117p are on a prospective p/e ratio of around 8, which is about par with the general engineering sector though the 5.2 per cent prospective yield is nearly two points below. Both groups are likely to remain relatively strong.

Interim: 1975-76 (1974-75)
Capitalization £32.4m
Sales £51.1m (£38.3m)
Pre-tax profits £3.0m (£2.31m)
Dividend gross 3.08p (2.69p)

Interest rates
Short-term factors

With another firm performance behind it yesterday, the gilt-edged market is indicating quite clearly that a cut in Minimum Lending Rate is on the way soon, probably this Friday unless the trade deficit emerges appreciably worse than the month before.

How much of a decline the authorities might be prepared to contemplate just now is far from clear, but there is a case for a significant fall of 1-1.5 per cent. The easier trend in American interest rates since early October. Our own 1 per cent increase in MLR to 12 per cent last month owed a great deal to developments in the United States. At that time the gap between British and American Treasury Bill rates had shrunk to an uncomfortable 4 points and the rise in MLR restored the margin to 5 points.

Since then, however, American rates have continued to fall back. American money supply growth has been significantly below Federal Reserve Board targets—last month there was an estimated 3 per cent contraction against the desired 5.8 per cent expansion—so that it has

been possible to ease the monetary reins somewhat. As a result, American 3-month Treasury Bill rates are now a full 6 points below United Kingdom rates.

Admittedly, the Mansion House speech, with its indication that no cut in the Government borrowing requirement is imminent, has been a serious setback to the gilt-edged market. But little else has happened to upset the equilibrium, so there would appear to be scope for domestic forces to assert themselves to push rates lower—with the proviso that a closer than ever watch should be kept upon the pound.

Over the next few days that should be heartening news for short gilts, although conditions may be unsettled until there is a new short "tap". I would expect to see one announced fairly quickly.

longer and it was drawing some support from the IMF loan yesterday, but the market would likely have seen some stringent conditions attached.

Firth Brown Convertible sums

Johnson & Firth Brown is following in the footsteps of Guinness with an attempt to induce holders of its 9 1/2 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock to exercise their conversion rights now rather than later. The object is to provide the group with more elbow-room in the balance-sheet against the time when the economy turns up. The elbow-room gained, however, is not at all that simple.

It is difficult moving from one edition to the next to discover starting changes, though, of course, there are always some disappearances from the various lists. Notable absentees from the new edition, for example, are Court Line and Jessel Securities (for the convenience of readers a special table of investors and departures from the table is given for the first time this year).

Naturally, the table tends to reflect the effects of various economic cycles on individual companies and it is striking that, through all the vicissitudes of inflation and recession, most companies were chalking up a better percentage return on capital employed in 1974 than

in 1964; in other words, they were more efficient than they were 10 years ago, though in some cases, of course, this could also happen when companies continue to use out-of-date and written-off equipment.

As a further aid to readers, the new edition includes for the first time a 10-year record of performance by the United Kingdom's current top 50 industrial groupings. As these companies account for approximately 50 per cent of the total turnover and of capital employed for the whole 1974, the 50 give a good indication of the changing factors which have affected British industry over the past decade.

Top fifty

In terms of profits, their dominance has become even more marked; in the latest year recorded, they accounted for more than 60 per cent of profits for the 1,000. (As a sample figures for the top five are shown on this page.)

Nevertheless, in each year's figures there are usually one or two events which have a striking effect on the performance of some companies. This time it is the oil companies which show the most dramatic change.

The domestic motorist or industrial oil user is well aware what happens to him or her when the oil producing countries raise their prices—the bill goes up. The effect upon oil companies is different—they immediately make stock profits and, for 1974, the effect of

A ten-year record of Britain's five largest companies

| Rank | Company | Item | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 |
|------|------------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | BRITISH PETROLEUM | Net Capital Employed £000 | 1,058,400 | 1,265,200 | 1,495,500 | 1,587,700 | 1,827,900 | 1,971,600 | 2,117,500 | 2,293,600 | 2,941,400 | 3,635,500 |
| | | Ratio of Turnover to "Net Capital Employed" | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 3.2 |
| | | Net Profit before Interest and Tax £000 | 217,400 | 242,600 | 264,200 | 371,200 | 384,300 | 456,500 | 738,500 | 776,400 | 1,213,300 | 2,406,500 |
| | | % to "Net Capital Employed" | 23.1 | 22.9 | 20.9 | 24.8 | 24.2 | 25.5 | 37.5 | 36.7 | 52.9 | 81.8 |
| 2 | "SHELL" TRANSPORT & TRADING | Net Capital Employed £000 | 1,406,359 | 1,503,076 | 1,637,301 | 1,825,567 | 1,961,890 | 2,005,791 | 2,173,208 | 2,363,900 | 2,612,588 | 3,108,800 |
| | | Ratio of Turnover to "Net Capital Employed" | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.6 |
| | | Net Profit before Interest and Tax £000 | 193,718 | 205,822 | 224,140 | 315,667 | 335,435 | 397,348 | 491,430 | 500,354 | 856,802 | 1,746,800 |
| | | % to "Net Capital Employed" | 15.0 | 14.8 | 14.9 | 19.3 | 18.4 | 20.3 | 24.5 | 23.0 | 36.2 | 66.9 |
| 3 | BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO | Net Capital Employed £000 | 431,228 | 464,176 | 495,130 | 607,090 | 667,720 | 779,030 | 833,740 | 913,320 | 1,265,100 | 1,442,510 |
| | | Ratio of Turnover to "Net Capital Employed" | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 3.1 | 2.8 |
| | | Net Profit before Interest and Tax £000 | 91,273 | 103,033 | 104,900 | 130,300 | 141,560 | 167,590 | 189,610 | 178,380 | 249,680 | 305,760 |
| | | % to "Net Capital Employed" | 22.4 | 23.9 | 22.6 | 26.3 | 23.3 | 25.1 | 21.2 | 21.4 | 27.3 | 24.2 |
| 4 | IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES | Net Capital Employed £000 | 1,058,900 | 1,221,700 | 1,389,800 | 1,505,400 | 1,581,300 | 1,713,000 | 1,851,800 | 1,936,800 | 2,216,300 | 2,493,200 |
| | | Ratio of Turnover to "Net Capital Employed" | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.3 |
| | | Net Profit before Interest and Tax £000 | 112,700 | 107,200 | 135,300 | 193,100 | 212,700 | 196,400 | 191,800 | 217,500 | 417,000 | 581,700 |
| | | % to "Net Capital Employed" | 11.9 | 10.1 | 11.1 | 13.9 | 14.1 | 12.4 | 11.2 | 11.7 | 21.5 | 26.2 |
| 5 | UNILEVER | Net Capital Employed £000 | 490,559 | 504,506 | 541,500 | 542,500 | 548,000 | 570,800 | 580,900 | 644,900 | 728,100 | 832,000 |
| | | Ratio of Turnover to "Net Capital Employed" | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 3.0 | 3.4 |
| | | Net Profit before Interest and Tax £000 | 57,001 | 57,765 | 53,800 | 75,000 | 68,600 | 74,100 | 89,200 | 108,200 | 149,400 | 175,800 |
| | | % to "Net Capital Employed" | 12.5 | 11.8 | 12.6 | 13.9 | 12.8 | 13.5 | 15.6 | 17.9 | 23.2 | 24.1 |

*Net capital employed at beginning of year.

Charting the fortunes of world business

A new edition of *The Times 1000* is published today. Now in its eleventh year, this guide to the performance of major industrial groups throughout the world has become established as a useful tool in comparing relative performance and strengths of companies within countries, and as far as possible, given varying accounting practices, with their international competitors.

The publication has developed in style and scope since it was first published, but the main table remains the vital statistics of the largest 1,000 United Kingdom industrial companies ranked by turnover. Now with 10 previous editions behind it, it has become possible to study the major trends which become apparent only over a long period.

It is difficult moving from one edition to the next to discover starting changes, though, of course, there are always some disappearances from the various lists. Notable absentees from the new edition, for example, are Court Line and Jessel Securities (for the convenience of readers a special table of investors and departures from the table is given for the first time this year).

Naturally, the table tends to reflect the effects of various economic cycles on individual companies and it is striking that, through all the vicissitudes of inflation and recession, most companies were chalking up a better percentage return on capital employed in 1974 than

in 1964; in other words, they were more efficient than they were 10 years ago, though in some cases, of course, this could also happen when companies continue to use out-of-date and written-off equipment.

As a further aid to readers, the new edition includes for the first time a 10-year record of performance by the United Kingdom's current top 50 industrial groupings. As these companies account for approximately 50 per cent of the total turnover and of capital employed for the whole 1974, the 50 give a good indication of the changing factors which have affected British industry over the past decade.

Top fifty

In terms of profits, their dominance has become even more marked; in the latest year recorded, they accounted for more than 60 per cent of profits for the 1,000. (As a sample figures for the top five are shown on this page.)

Nevertheless, in each year's figures there are usually one or two events which have a striking effect on the performance of some companies. This time it is the oil companies which show the most dramatic change.

The domestic motorist or industrial oil user is well aware what happens to him or her when the oil producing countries raise their prices—the bill goes up. The effect upon oil companies is different—they immediately make stock profits and, for 1974, the effect of

these inflated the results of the major oil companies, giving them an even more dominant role than usual in the overall picture of British industry.

The biggest groups of all, British Petroleum and Shell Transport and Trading, and the smaller Esso Petroleum, reported almost double pre-tax profits. This effect can also be seen in the profits of United States and European oil companies.

Oil can have the opposite effect, too. The recent slump in the motor market is a direct result of the oil crisis and shows up in the figures produced by the car companies, culminating in the very serious problem facing British Leyland, Chrysler and the other major motor manufacturers.

Although the effect of stock profits was most marked in oil a similar situation was apparent in other areas, notably Tate & Lyle, where the effect of commodity prices and stock profits boosted the company's earnings.

It is impossible in one short article to discuss all the conclusions that it is possible to draw from the figures in the 1000. It is laborious working on the raw figures alone, so in the introduction we have included a series of tables showing the biggest employers, profit makers, exporters and additionally the biggest changes in profit (both ways), the companies reporting the highest and lowest returns on capital, employed and the money losers.

We are reproducing here the first three mentioned, which speak for themselves, and also the table of percentage return on capital employed which is some measure at least of the most efficient and least efficient firms in the country, though of course it is by no means the only guide. In some cases it may be meaningless, for by their very nature some companies have low fixed assets, while others—the heavy industries for example—need enormous investments before they can produce anything.

The lowest return on capital employed, other than a loss, was announced by Chevron Oil (UK) whose profit of £9,000 represents a return of 0.1 per cent, or only 10p on every £100 of assets. The highest return is the 67.4 per cent recorded by Export Advisory Services on a capital employed of £469,000. This is equivalent to a profit of £674.80 on every £100 invested in the company. For the first time in the last five years, Tamprax Oil Products falls out of the top two in this table, despite its highest return over the period of 165.1 per cent.

Not surprisingly, the United Kingdom motor manufacturers figure prominently in the biggest falls in profit. All of them except Vauxhall are featured in the 10 largest falls. The most notable fall, however, is the enormous loss of £32,196,000 registered by Harland & Wolff.

The statistics for United Kingdom companies in *The Times 1000* are probably of most interest to readers, but useful comparisons can be made with foreign companies

throughout the world, in Europe, North America, Japan and Australia. The book also includes figures from the major British financial institutions and nationalized industries.

Although it is as up-to-date as we can make it (all full accounts received by June 30, last, are included as eligible) it is important to remember that *The Times 1000* is an annual and later figures may already have become available for some companies.

More than 80 per cent of the companies listed account to December 31, so their latest full figures are included, as are most of those of companies accounting to March 31. The few companies who close the books at the end of June or September will find they lag a year behind the others. This is unfortunate, but we have to draw a line somewhere.

As usual, we have relied on Exel statistical services for all the figures in *The Times 1000* and we are indebted to them for their invaluable help.

Margaret Allen

The Times 1000 is available from: Times Newspapers Limited, 32 Wharf Road, London N1 7SD. Price: £5.50 including p & p.

THE TOP TEN EMPLOYERS

| Rank | Company | No. of employees |
|------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Post Office | 434,065 |
| 2 | National Coal Board | 321,000 |
| 3 | British Railways Board | 235,902 |
| 4 | British Steel Corporation | 223,000 |
| 5 | British Leyland Motor | 207,770 |
| 6 | General Electric | 202,000 |
| 7 | Imperial Chemical Industries | 201,000 |
| 8 | The Electricity Council | 172,483 |
| 9 | Guest Keen & Nettlefolds | 120,340 |
| 10 | Courtaulds | 110,832 |

THE TOP TEN U.K. PROFIT MAKERS

| Rank | Company | Profit £000s |
|------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | British Petroleum | 2,405,000 |
| 2 | "Shell" Transport & Trading | 1,746,800 |
| 3 | Imperial Chemical Industries | 581,700 |
| 4 | Rio Tinto-Zinc | 317,200 |
| 5 | British American Tobacco | 305,760 |
| 6 | Rank Xerox | 181,555 |
| 7 | Unilever | 175,800 |
| 8 | General Electric | 165,884 |
| 9 | Courtaulds | 152,800 |
| 10 | Esso Petroleum | 152,100 |

THE TOP TEN U.K. EXPORTERS

| Rank | Company | Exports £000s |
|------|------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Imperial Chemical Industries | 636,000 |
| 2 | British Leyland Motor | 485,000 |
| 3 | British Steel Corporation | 398,000 |
| 4 | British Petroleum | 376,000 |
| 5 | Ford Motor | 359,600 |
| 6 | Courtaulds | 285,400 |
| 7 | General Electric | 246,000 |
| 8 | Unilever | 184,000 |
| 9 | British Aircraft Corporation | 173,009 |
| 10 | Hawker Siddeley | 171,000 |

The above list does not include C. T. Bowring which last year announced export figures of £182,288,000. This figure is composed mainly of premium income earned in overseas currency and is not strictly comparable with the export figures given above.

This change from the previous year's small profit represents a drop of 13,684.8 per cent over the previous year!

Twenty-one companies recorded losses in the previous year, with four over £1m (the largest being £1,824,000). This year 25 companies have recorded losses and 13 are in excess of £1m, culminating in Chrysler United Kingdom's £11,259,000 and Harland & Wolff's £32,196,000.

Totals and averages are always a useful guide to overall performance and the 1000 includes a table of these—profits, capital employed, return on turnover and the total for the top British companies as a whole, and also broken down into groups of 50.

The increase in oil prices for the major oil companies means that the top 50 companies again dominate the whole survey. Once again turnover for these accounts for almost 50 per cent of the turnover for the whole 1,000, as does capital employed.

The statistics for United Kingdom companies in *The Times 1000* are probably of most interest to readers, but useful comparisons can be made with foreign companies

Scottish & Continental Investment Company Limited

| | 1975 | 1974 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Asset value per share | 71.4p | 57.5p |
| Total assets | £16,195,368 | £15,089,723 |
| Revenue available for ordinary shareholders | £171,563 | £167,999 |
| Ordinary dividend per share | 1.00p | 1.00p |

Mr. J. A. Lumsden covered the following points in his review of the year to 31st August 1975.

RESULTS

The year has been much more satisfactory than its predecessor, and part of the loss in capital value has been recovered. Revenue available for dividend shows little change from last year.

DIVIDEND POLICY

The Board recommends a dividend of 1p per share, the same as last year.

The directors consider the company's policy should be to distribute as dividend each year the greater part of the revenue available in that year rather than follow a regular dividend or policy. The primary objective of the investment policy is to restore the capital position even if such a policy reduces immediate revenue. Present estimates indicate that revenue will not be sufficient to meet a dividend of 1p per share.

PORTFOLIO

The major change is in the increase in the percentage in France from 13.87 to 28.46. The percentage in Germany is unchanged and in Holland it has been more than

halved. The amounts invested in the USA and Japan have not changed greatly, although the percentages have fallen.

OUTLOOK

The prospects for Europe depend to a large extent on a recovery in world trade generally, in which the USA must play a leading part. There are signs that an improving trend is emerging in the USA and the stronger European economies should be well placed to take advantage of any recovery.

Equity prices are still at low levels and evidence of increased economic activity and a rising profit trend should encourage investor confidence. It is therefore our policy to be fully invested and to be prepared to increase our gearing to a modest extent by raising additional currency loans when the time is right, with a view to providing the capital growth which is the primary objective of our investment policy.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd December 1975 at the offices of Robert Fleming Holdings Limited, 8 Crosby Square, London.



MANAGED BY MURRAY JOHNSTONE LIMITED

Business Diary: Ferranti's Alun-Jones • Left in the lurch?

could be no fears that Alun-Jones does not find the family million in job as managing director of Ferranti Limited, September passed from oil of the de Ferranti that of the taxpayer.

ity of Alun-Jones, who on Burmah to take managing directorship sirman Sebastian de once made quite a the Burmah house

as seven years ago, wife, Gillian, pre-nuptial with triplets, Sophie, d Nicholas, to go with r children's

ness, the 42-year-old has developed a as one of those lucky seem to thrive on

takeovers or mergers of one sort or another.

In the early sixties, he had not long settled into the company secretaryship of Expandite—makers of fixings for the building industry—when they were taken over by Castrol, who put him on the board.

When in 1966 Castrol merged with Burmah, Alun-Jones soon found himself Expandite's managing director, then managing director of Burmah's industrial (or non-oil) products, which takes in not only Expandite but Rawlplug and other products.

By the time, late last year, that Burmah ran into trouble, Alun-Jones was a director of Burmah Oil Trading, group's principal trading company responsible for the whole industrial division.

Now, with the state control of Ferranti but recently com-

pleted, Alun-Jones finds himself in the managing director's chair of a main board.

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as a main board director and Son on January 1 in succession to Mr P. Nicholls.

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